

Disability Now

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20-23 CLASSIFIEDS

As the biggest campaign since World War Two continues in the Gulf, there are doubts about Britain's ability to cope with the increased numbers of disabled people once they leave hospital.

Britain has sent 35,000 troops to the Gulf. At least 18,500 casualties are expected, according to newspaper reports.

Health Secretary William Waldegrave has said the NHS is ready and there will be no holding back on cash. But when it comes to longer term support for disabled servicemen, the picture is less clear.

The Ministry of Defence assured *DN*: "The services look after those invalided out very well."

Gordon Littlemore of the Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's Families Association's (SSAFA) said: "SSAFA will be able to deal with immediate problems which might arise, but in cases of disablement, or if casualties go into NHS hospitals, then social workers' services will be needed."

But Don McCloud, advisor on crisis psychology for the North West Association of Social Services, which represents 16 social services in the North West, feels



Room for intensive care: one of two adapted mess halls at RAF Bicester, Oxfordshire. PRESS ASSOCIATION

the Government is leaving social services out: "We're not being brought into the game properly. We're being told by the MOD that there is no role for us to play and that SSAFA will do it. We know that's rubbish. SSAFA can provide some support but the problems people will have will place demands on local authority resources."

Around the country, social

services departments are bracing themselves for casualties. In Hereford and Worcester, operations director Laurie Gregory said: "Every local authority is having difficulty allocating funds to current developments, such as the Children's Act and community care. The Gulf War on top of this will make an already difficult situation even worse."

Jenny Webb, assistant director

of elderly and disability services in Kingston upon Thames admitted: "Services are stretched already, particularly on the occupational therapy side."

In Lothian, director of social work John Chant said it was difficult to make long term plans because people treated in hospitals near airports would go home for rehabilitation.

Continued on page 2

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Chairman



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Backdated benefit bonanza

Disabled people all over the country are being urged to claim backdated social security payments now, as people in Durham receive payments averaging £10,000.

At least two people have won awards dating back to 1948, when the welfare state started. They are likely to get £30,000-£40,000 each.

Last month the social security tribunal made a £22,000 award. "Claims are winning all the

time," said John Salisbury, head of Durham's welfare rights unit.

The backpayments are allowances for laundry, baths, diet and footwear which were part of the supplementary benefits system before April 1988.

Few of the claimants got these allowances because social security officers who visited them did not ask if they were spending extra money on these things.

The awards have been adjusted to take inflation into

account after Durham county council's welfare rights unit, which campaigned for the backpayments, threatened to take the council to court. So one award of £25,000 includes £11,000 to allow for inflation since 1958.

Durham's welfare rights unit is holding a national conference on 22 March to tell welfare rights workers, advisors and individuals about the payments.

"People who think they are

Continued on page 2

Kent council plays "big brother"

Disabled people in Kent who are to start paying for all social services from this April say they are being used as community care "guinea pigs" by the county council.

Under the Government's community care plans, councils were to get the power and money to create "packages of care" to meet the needs of disabled and elderly people.

When the Government said the money to pay for this wouldn't arrive till 1993 (*DN* Aug), councils put their plans on hold.

Now local people say Conservative-controlled Kent County Council is forging ahead regardless and leaving them to pay the price.

Kent is known as something of a community care pioneer. And according to Lyn Everist of the Dartford, Swanley, and Gravesham council for voluntary services, it has been the victim of its own success: "They couldn't turn back because they had their systems in place and all the repercussions are just horrible."

"We're being used as guinea

pigs. It sounds great outside the county but it's certainly not being received that way here.

"It's like being taken over by big brother," she said.

She has helped set up a fighting forum of local disability and elderly groups which includes Mencap, MIND, Age Concern, and Crossroads.

Adrian Bishop, Kent's assistant director for care in the community, said they have had a policy of charging some people for services since 1987 and that

Continued on page 3

Barnhill fights on

The fight to save Barnhill, the integrated school in Hillingdon in London facing closure after having over £500,000 spent on making it accessible (DN Jan), goes on.

The council motion to close the school was passed in December. The campaign to save it has now entered the critical 2-3 month public consultation period.

Parents, pupils and teachers met last month to plan a strategy to get more people on their side.

Gulf casualties

Continued from page 1

In the Isle of Wight, Alan Dickins, assistant director of social services, agreed. But, whatever is needed, he pledged, "we'll move hell and high water to provide it."

Richard Wood, director of the British Council of Organisations of Disabled People (BCODP) said: "Disabled people already get a bad deal in this country. The Gulf War could only have a detrimental effect on services, with more and more people competing for fewer resources."

RADAR director Bert Massie said: "It's hard to see how they're going to find the funds for an influx of disabled people now."

Disabled servicemen can expect many benefits, including

An 8,000 signature petition has already failed to sway councillors who argue there are not enough pupils to keep the school open.

If the decision is not reversed during this time, only the Secretary of State for Education can save it.

Should the campaign fail, the school will close in 1993.

Mrs Lesley Hyder, whose son Matthew, who is partially sighted, attends the school, summed up the mood: "We are united and we'll fight on."

war disablement pension. An internal benefit inquiry hotline has been set up and a Gulf Trust fund.

Mr Wood said the MoD was being "naive" in thinking a higher pension will be enough. "It will do nothing to improve the access, mobility, transport or housing problems they'll have."

And Mr Massie said: "As a society, we should be looking at how all disabled people's needs are met, regardless of how they acquired their disability."

In a cruel irony, the disability movement is preparing for new recruits. According to Richard Wood: "We certainly don't welcome the Gulf War as a way of increasing BCODP membership. But, as with Vietnam, huge casualties will increase public awareness of disabled people."



John Corkhill and Vi Whitelock: £5,000 better off

JIM APPLEBY

Backdated benefits

Continued from page 1

eligible should contact their welfare rights unit or citizens' advice bureau," said an officer at the unit.

They should not complain direct to the Department of Social Security, she added, because this often led to a small backpayment.

The campaigning organisation Disability Alliance is advising people who think they are now entitled to SDP under the new

ruling to get their claims in as soon as possible.

The DSS is trying to appeal to the social security commissioner in some of the cases, claiming that guardians of the claimants should have taken notice of information about the supplements in Government leaflets.

Bill Firby, Labour chairman of the county's social services committee, said: "There's a possibility that if people don't get cracking, they could lose out."

John Corkhill, 22, has a mental handicap and cerebral palsy. He

got a back payment of £5,000. The family is thinking of buying a caravan with it.

"Nobody came to tell us anything or suggest we apply for anything," said his mother, Vi Whitelock.

One hundred cases have been heard since summer 1989. Eighty have been successful.

In a separate move, the Government is appealing against a decision which would allow up to 400,000 more people to claim severe disability premium.

Rules state that people cannot get the benefit if they have non-dependent adults living with them or a carer who gets invalid care allowance.

But in the case of a Lancashire woman the social security commissioner ruled that the Government could not lay down terms that deprived people of the severe disability premium.

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Lin Berwick, DN's telephone counsellor, herself disabled, can give other disabled people and their carers advice and support on personal and spiritual problems. Talk to her on Monday afternoons, 1pm-5pm and Thursdays 6pm-10pm. Her telephone number is (04024) 77582.

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Society's new boss

Douglas Shapland, chairman of The Spastics Society since 1986, resigned last month because of ill-health.

The new chairman is Derek Ashcroft, a retired schoolmaster,



Derek Ashcroft: successor

Kent plays big brother

Continued from page 1

many other councils do the same.

But the new charges will apply to all physically disabled people and people with learning difficulties. The plan is to include "all aspects of the care management service", for example transport to day centres, meal costs, respite care, domiciliary care and laundry services.

A council document leaked to *DN* shows "the proposed structure of charges for adult services".

For example, if a service costs the council £75-£112 a week, people on attendance allowance at the higher rate (£41.65 from April 1991) would be expected to pay £27. If a service costs up to £45 a week people on income support or family credit would pay £3.50.

Bob Coles, who is chairperson of the Brent Day Centre for the Physically Disabled members' committee and a wheelchair user, condemned the new charges.

"This will cause hardship to many and will mean that all the

physically disabled will pay twice for services, once under the community charge for the provision of a service, and again to use it," he said.

Pam Gaskin, chairman of the Kent Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, is worried about the effect on young disabled adults. "If these young people don't have anywhere else to go but a day centre it's dreadful they're going to be charged for it. That's all they have at the moment."

Asked why Kent was going ahead with Griffiths' plans when the Government had delayed theirs, Mr Bishop said: "Because we believe it is the most logical idea emanating in social welfare since 1948."

He denied the council was trying to keep the poll tax low at the expense of social services. "Kent social services have been successful in increasing resources year by year beyond the rate of inflation. Kent has always managed to get more than its fair share."

Kent has an average poll tax of £300 compared to £380 nationally.

His place as vice-chairman is taken by Anthony Hewson, managing director of his own company, who was elected to the executive council in 1989. Both have children with cp.

"The Society has made dramatic moves in care in the community and education," commented Derek Ashcroft. "It is vital that we carry these through in the spirit in which they were started by Doug Shapland."

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Lena Olin, a disabled two-year-old, joins Paul Cook of the British Science and Technology Trust at the Soviet Embassy in London in December. They launched the Lena appeal, which has raised over £750,000 for food and medicine for Soviet hospitals. In the same month health union Cohse found that people in Scottish geriatric and mental handicap hospitals get on average 55p worth of food per meal.

THE GUARDIAN

Poll Tax strikes again

The poll tax has struck disabled and elderly people again, with closures and cuts around the country.

In Strathclyde in Scotland, the social work department has to cut £5.6m from its budget, largely because of non-payment. Two homes for elderly people and one for mentally handicapped people are to close, and £30,000 is to be cut from the development budget for disability centres.

In Newcastle upon Tyne the Clarence Walk site of the Shieldfield Day Centre for severely physically disabled people is under threat of closure because the social services department has to make cuts.

In Hammersmith and Fulham in London, members of the Sunberry Day Centre for people with physical disabilities age 16-65, feel "angry and betrayed" that their specially adapted centre is to be overrun by elderly people aged 80-90 from the St Vincent's day centre which was closed last October.

Members of the Sunberry Centre protest that they have different needs to elderly people; there will not be enough staff to cope; time will be spent on feeding and toileting the elderly people rather than education, mobility and leisure classes; there will not be enough transport.

A spokesperson from Hammersmith and Fulham council said the council was capped last year and had to cut £4m from social services. "We're very aware of people's concerns. It's not a decision we wanted to take."

Thousands will lose out from cuts in ET

Government cuts in Employment Training mean up to 39,000 young people with special needs will lose out on places, the National Council for Voluntary Organisations said last month.

It was told by civil servants that up to 85,000 ET places would close in the next financial year due to cuts announced last autumn, under which the ET budget will be reduced by a third.

John Mabbott, adult training policy officer at the NCVO, said Government assurances that the number of special needs places would be constantly reviewed were not good enough. "They

are a way of saying nothing, essentially."

He wants to see guidance given to Training and Enterprise Councils (TECS) on special needs training, and targets set for numbers of special needs trainees.

A Department of Employment spokesperson dismissed the estimates as speculation. She said that after April 1991 disabled people would be put in a high priority group by TECS, which administer ET, and that training programmes would be more flexible to cater better for trainees with special needs.

Disability Now

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IN PARLIAMENT

All for indoor/outdoor wheelchairs

The pressing need among severely disabled people for an indoor/outdoor powered wheelchair provided by the Disablement Services Authority was debated in the House of Lords on 14 January, thanks to the tenacity of Lord Allen of Abbeydale (Ind).

The idea was first put forward in 1986 by a committee chaired by Professor Ian McColl, now Lord McColl, said Lord Allen. And when the DSA managed to get funding for a pilot scheme among 200 people in Newcastle and Manchester in 1989, "it is not surprising that the results fully confirmed that the independence allowed by the use of these chairs, the ability to go to the shops or visit friends, made a very great difference to the quality of life."

Yet when the DSA put in a bid for £10m in the present financial year to expand the scheme, it received only £1m to provide indoor/outdoor powered wheelchairs for another 450 people in the north and north-west regions.

The total number of disabled people who may need such a wheelchair could be over 20,000, said Lord Allen.

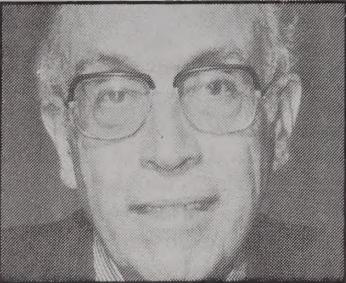
"Obviously the overriding problem is that of cost". While a basic manual wheelchair costs about £130 and a new electric indoor wheelchair about £750, the indoor/outdoor wheelchairs used in the pilot scheme worked out at £1,500 to £2,000.

In April this year the DSA is handing over responsibility for

wheelchairs and artificial limbs to regional health authorities and through them to district health authorities. The budget will be "ring-fenced" – but only for the first two years.

Although the Government will give more money for the services, said Lord Allen, local authorities will be under no obligation to spend it on indoor/outdoor wheelchairs, and the increase falls far short of the £53.25m the DSA wanted for the issue of the chairs to those who needed them.

He wanted to know, among other things, if the Government thought the provision of indoor/



Keeping up the pressure: Lord Allen (left) and Lord McColl.

outdoor wheelchairs should be encouraged and hoped some of the extra money would be spent on them. How would reasonable consistency throughout the country be achieved? Would people issued with chairs under the pilot scheme be able to keep them? And, finally, when "ring-fencing" ended in 1993, what were the Government's plans for monitoring "this valuable service" and how would it guarantee that the need for limbs and chairs would be satisfactorily met?

His concerns were echoed on all sides of the House.

Lord Holderness (Con), chairman of the DSA, said the pilot studies had convinced the Authority that "the provision of such a chair is an objective which must be achieved as soon as possible."

Lord McColl (Con) pointed out that if each district health authority supplied indoor/outdoor wheelchairs based on the criteria used in the pilot study, and included those over 65, the total cost to each district would be only £278,000.

Lord Ennals (Lab) said it would be an "absolute tragedy" if



House points

● Lord Seebohm (Ind), whose Report on Local Authority and Allied Social Services shaped social services over the last 20 years, died in a car crash in December.

● Labour social security spokesman Tony Banks has resigned after voting against the Commons motion on 22 January which backed British forces in the Gulf. He has been replaced by Graham Allen, MP for Nottingham North.

been put at £3,000m a year.)

Baroness Hooper, speaking for the Government, said that for 1990-1 there was an increase of funds for disabled services "to help to ensure that money is there to meet the existing demand for special wheelchair seating."

The Government remained free to re-consider the case for funding indoor/outdoor wheelchairs, but she pointed out that providing them to all who need one would treble the cost of wheelchair services, from about £33m to £86m. "Realistically, we are looking at a period of several years over which we hope that powered indoor/outdoor wheelchairs may become progressively more widely available."

No-one already issued with a powered wheelchair will have to give it up, she confirmed.

On parity of service between regions, Baroness Hooper said: "We shall be monitoring progress and, no doubt, if it becomes necessary, we may have to consider guidance."

She felt sure that district health authorities would see the value of indoor/outdoor wheelchairs, find ways to make them more widely available and that "this will not be a cinderella service."

IN BRIEF

Honoured in Hungary

Three Britons were made Honorary Conductors by the Senate of the Peto Institute's Conductors College at the first world congress of conductive education held in Budapest at the end of November. Dr Maria Hari made the presentations.

Ester Cotton is consultant to the Hornsey Centre in London. Anita Loring is secretary general of the International Cerebral Palsy Society, and Andrew Sutton is director of the Foundation for Conductive Education in Birmingham.

Also honoured were Helga Keil of the Austrian Spastics Society; Udi Lion of Tsad Kadima, the Association for the Advancement of Conductive Education, Israel; Dr Masanao Murai of the Warashibe Institute in Japan, and two staff members of the Peto Institute.

Over 19s losing out

"We must stop kidding ourselves: over 19 provision is declining both in quantity and even more alarmingly in quality. Local authorities are cutting back, closing centres, not training staff and using learning difficulties as the first service to attack in their cuts."

So say Kith and Kids, a pressure group of parents with children who are mentally or physically handicapped. It is to have a workshop called "How to apply pressure and get results for over-19 provision for people with learning disabilities" on 23 February.

RNIB Conference Centre, 224 Great Portland Street, London WIN 6AA. Contact Maurice Collins, tel: 071-739 2410.

New sports guide

People with multiple disabilities have a new guide explaining what sports opportunities are open to them. It includes book reviews, equipment advice, and information on activities including adventure play, canoeing and aromatherapy.

The guide is produced by the Promotion project, a partnership between Cerebral Palsy Sport and the Greater London region of the United Kingdom Sports Association for People with a Mental Handicap.

Contact Cerebral Palsy Sport, Sycamore Sports Centre, Hungerhill Road, St Ann's, Nottingham NG3 4NB. The guide is £6.50.

Corrections

Although Carefree Holidays (see DN January) offers holidays mainly for the over 55s, it is not a specialist holiday company for disabled people, nor does "easy access" mean wheelchair access. A leaflet for disabled people and an information sheet for wheelchair users are available, tel: (0604) 34301.

The AA disabled travellers' guide is free to AA members and not £3 as stated. It is £3.50 to non-members from AA shops or AA Travel, tel: (0256) 20123.

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Remploy tops New Year's honours

Manufacturing company Remploy, Britain's largest employer of disabled people, has had a triple success in the New Year Honours.

Vice chairman and wheelchair user Dr Richard Learner was awarded a CBE, Remploy's principal medical officer William McLean got an OBE, and supervisor Thomas Davidson, who has polio, got a BEM.

Richard Learner was also

British Paralympic Association; John Rea Price, ex-president of the Association of Directors of Social Services; and Elizabeth Gallagher, for services to handicapped and travelling people in Northern Ireland.

MBEs included Gerry Kinsella, who set up Liverpool's Greenbank Project, where disabled people train for work; Philip Craven, chair of the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation; John Davies, for services to disabled people in Wales; Neva MacDonald-Haig, of the Scottish Riding for the Disabled Association; Cora Phillips, vice-president of the Alzheimer's Disease Society; and Charlotte Wilde of the National Asthma Campaign.

BEMs included Harry Davies, for services to Mencap in Smethwick, West Midlands; Edward Finch, for services to blind people in Thetford; Ronald Fisher, for services to blind people in Ripon; Esther French, officer in charge of a group home for mentally handicapped people in Newport; Ronald Humphreys, handyman at the Portland College for the Disabled in Mansfield; Margaret Moran of the Multiple Sclerosis Action Group in Co Londonderry; Frank Mytton, production worker at Warrington Workshop for the Disabled; James O'Rourke, foreman of Royal Strathclyde Blindcraft Industries; and Cecilia O'Shea, for services to physically and mentally handicapped children in Surrey.

See "Inside the Palace", page 17, and profile, page 16.

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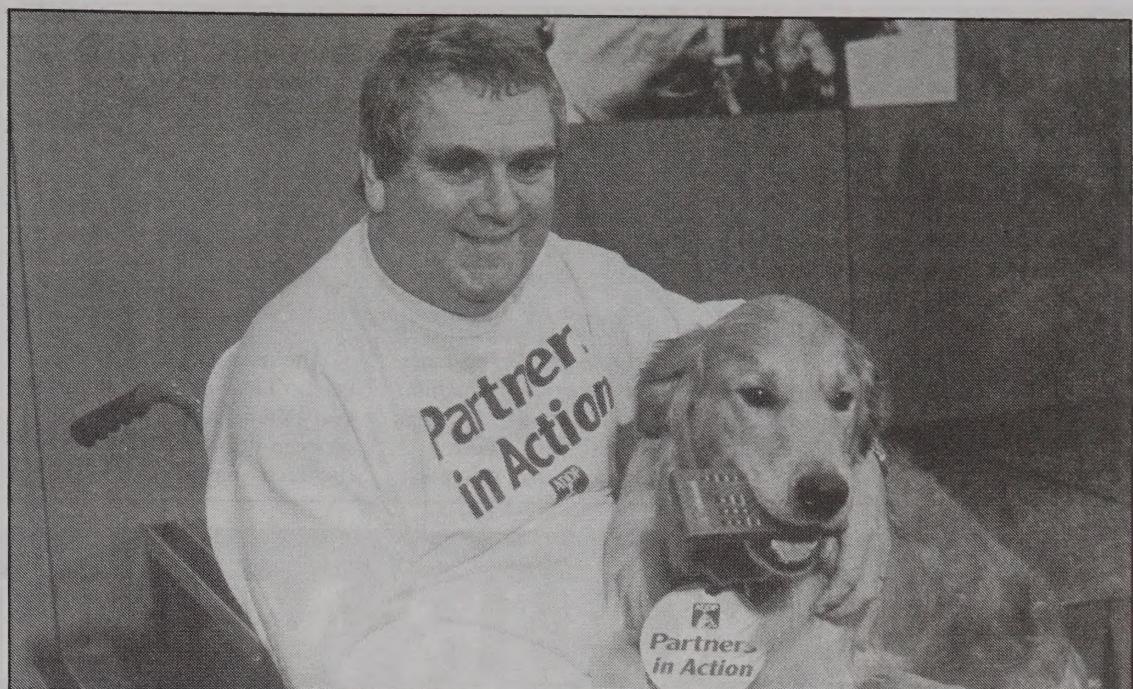
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Following the great success of two workshops in the UK in June 1990, Mr Daniel Hobbs, Director of Training for the Gentle Teaching Programme at Nebraska University is returning to run two more workshops.

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Amos the dog with his master, Colin Baber, at the launch of the charity Partners in Action, which needs £100,000 to supply dogs to do household tasks such as flicking light switches.

BT video helps disabled users

Stephen Hunt reports

British Telecom launched a new video for disabled people called *Everyday* at their London headquarters in October.

According to John Wood, head of BT's Action for Disabled Customers group, it aims to show the rapid advance in telecommunication services for disabled people. *Everyday* features four such people in their day-to-day lives.

For example Florence Dunn, a professional mouth artist, has multiple sclerosis and cannot use her arms or hands. She uses a loudspeaking phone connected to her environmental control computer which she operates with a suck-blown tube.

More news was given of BT's £4m investment in the RNID Telephone Exchange. Conversion work will begin soon on a two storey building at Speke in Liverpool and the opening of the

much-expanded exchange is expected in June next year.

Copies of *Everyday* are available on free loan from British Telecom Action for Disabled Customers, Room B4041, British Telecom Centre, 81 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AJ. Video is in VHS format and in 3 versions: subtitled, British Sign Language with subtitles; and non-subtitled. All publications and info from same address or by phoning free on 0800 800 806.

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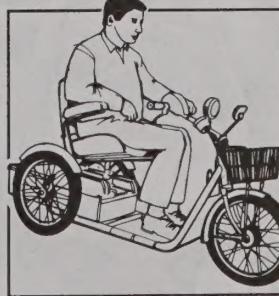
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6 BREAKTHROUGHS

A cancer uncovered

Doctors on the trail of a cure for breast cancer have identified the faulty gene in women who inherit the condition.

The breakthrough applies to only 4 per cent of breast cancer cases, but it has important implications for the rest.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women. Over 15,000 women in the UK died of it last year.

A cure is still many years away, but doctors around the world are excited at the news announced in October by Dr Mary-Claire King of the University of California.

Dr King's study, published in the December issue of *Science*, looked at women whose families had a history of inherited breast cancer.

She discovered a particular piece of DNA, the substance which stores genetic information, was also to be found in women with inherited breast cancer.

She concluded that this piece

acts as a "marker" - when women inherit it they also inherit the faulty gene which causes this type of breast cancer.



PATRICK BAGLEE

The next step is to isolate the gene. This could take several years, but when it is done doctors can discover what factors in the faulty gene cause inherited

breast cancer. Once they know what is going wrong they have a better chance of discovering ways to put it right.

Doctors in Britain and the rest of the world will now repeat Dr King's experiment to test its validity.

Dr Tim Bishop, senior scientist at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's unit in Leeds, commented: "This is a very important and exciting development. If we can repeat Dr King's findings then we will be in a position to understand why some families have so many cases of

breast cancer. That insight can also suggest ways of looking at more common causes of breast cancer."

One day heart cure

People with one type of heart defect can now get a one-day cure instead of undergoing open heart surgery, following a new technique's first British success in December.

Doctors at St Bartholomew's Hospital treat one person with Wolff-Parkinson-White Syndrome (WPW) a week.

Dr Anthony Nathan, who developed the treatment, said thousands of people could benefit, and open heart surgery for people with WPW would eventually become obsolete.

"It's much simpler and safer than previously," he said. "It's a significant breakthrough, and will be the first line of treatment in two years."

But Professor Desmond Julian, medical director of the British Heart Foundation, said the treatment would not apply to more than 50 British people, because there were only a small number who could not use drugs to control the condition.

People with WPW have an



extra thin thread of heart muscle going from one of the heart's upper chambers to one of the lower ones. Abnormal electrical impulses pass along it, disrupting the heartbeat. The condition affects one person in every thousand, and one fifth of them get severe palpitations.

In the new operation, doctors feed a catheter into the heart through the aorta and explore with it to find the defect. Then they heat the catheter to 75 degrees centigrade by radio frequency, and cause a lesion in the thread of muscle.

It is the first time anyone has had the operation without anaesthetic in this country, and the first time radio frequency has been used.

MD test scores 60

A new blood test can now pick up the muscular dystrophy (MD) gene in most women who carry it.

Professor Martin Bobrow of the Paediatric Research Unit at Guy's Hospital in London has developed a test which tells 60 per cent of women who are at risk whether they carry the gene or not. Previous tests could only show that it was 60-90 per cent likely that they carried it.

Twenty-five to thirty women have already had the test, which gets a result in two weeks. Doctors take the white blood cells, and extract and analyse RNA, a DNA-related chemical, to see if the woman is a carrier.

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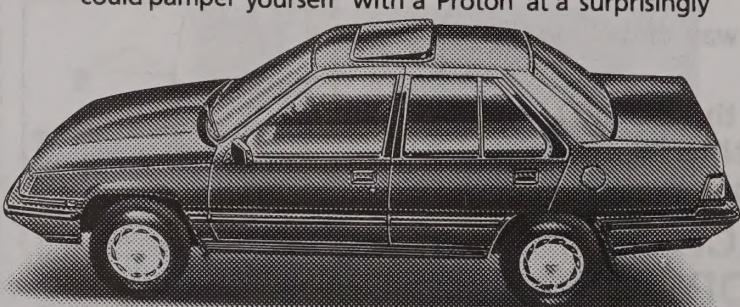
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Elderly in homes face eviction

Elderly people in care homes face increasing "eviction or neglect and abuse" because of lack of Government safeguards for people living in private care homes, said Labour's health spokesperson in December.

Harriet Harman produced new figures showing that the number of people in private care homes had quadrupled to 159,000 from 39,253 in 1981.

She said that councils were being forced to sell off their homes because of Government curbs on public spending, and because it would not be profitable to keep them under the community care programme.

But the Government had given no assurances that standards of care would be kept up, or that

resident's incomes would be maintained.

"What we are witnessing is a massive privatisation programme, carried out by stealth," she said. "Yet the Government is not prepared to safeguard the elderly in private care from eviction or neglect and abuse."

Sheila Scott, administrator of the National Care Homes Association, which is made up of private care home proprietors, said the NCHA supported a bill to be read in Parliament on 8 February by Conservative MP John Butterfill. This would register all homes and monitor the integrity of the proprietor.

She added that the increase in private homes was a response to public demand.

Manchester aims at 9.2%

Manchester city council is making new efforts to employ nearly ten per cent disabled people by 1997.

The council promises any disabled person who gets a job with the council that, where possible, the necessary aids and equipment, such as ramps and Minicom, will be installed.

From March, all jobs in the housing department will be reserved for disabled people when they are first advertised and the scheme will be extended to other departments if it works.

The council is also to work with the Manchester Disability Forum to set up a jobs club. There will be a jobs open day on 14 March.

In February 1989 the council set a target of employing 9.2 per cent disabled people, the same proportion of disabled people of working age who live in the city. The number has risen from 2.7 per cent then to 3.01 per cent last October. Manchester is spending £75,000 a year on aids and equipment for disabled council workers.

BT advice

Speech impaired people who might have trouble calling the emergency services are being given advice by British Telecom.

BT is advising them to use a speech synthesis device or a text terminal such as Minicom. Some police services, including the Nottinghamshire one, have text terminals, and will pass on urgent messages to other emergency services.

There is also a system called Telecom Security which tells the operator what emergency service is needed when a panic button is pushed.

Nottinghamshire constabulary, tel: (0602) 670100. For information about Telecom Security, tel: (0800) 010 999.



Deaf viewers in seven counties are watching subtitled late night news bulletins for two weeks from 21 January, broadcast by Central South, the first region to subtitle news.

Bobath's famous pioneers die

Berta Bobath (83) and her husband Dr Karel Bobath (85), famous for their work with disabled children, died on 20 January.

Anita Loring writes: Nearly 50 years ago, Mrs Berta Bobath, then working in the physiotherapy department of a London hospital, was asked to treat somebody who had a stroke and was not responding to treatment.

Trained as a remedial gymnast, Bertie decided not to accept the stiffness resulting from the stroke but to attempt to teach her patient to learn new movements and postures which would enable him to continue as an artist.

Her success encouraged her to take an interest in children with cerebral palsy.

With the support of members of the medical profession and the medical department of the

Ministry of Education, a centre was established in London in 1951. Here, children with cerebral palsy and adults could be treated and training courses for doctors and therapists interested in this type of specialist knowledge were run.

Born in Berlin in 1907, Bertie came to London as a refugee in 1938, where she later married Dr Karel Bobath, himself a refugee from Czechoslovakia.

Karel was a psychiatrist with



an interest in neurophysiology, and he began to search the literature for explanations to support his wife's methodology and successes, though his conclusions always remained controversial. He also set up, at Harperbury hospital, the first unit for children with physical disabilities in a long stay hospital.

News of the Bobath approach quickly spread, and the enthusiasm of Bertie led to teaching centres being set up all over Europe, North America, Australia and Japan.

Both she and her husband received many international honours including the Harding Award "for outstanding work of benefit to the disabled."

Their work, now well established, continues at the Bobath Centre, London.

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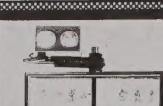
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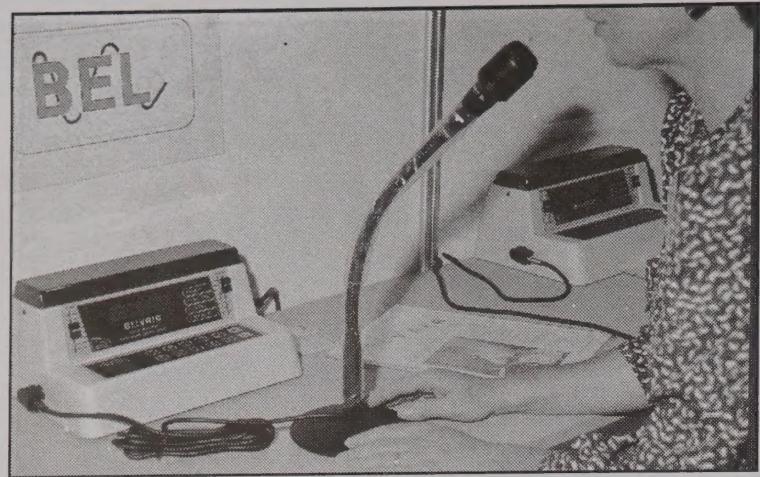
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The Belvair is for people with limited physical movement.

New aids for independence, both indoors and out

Jeff Banks reports from Naidex

A new environmental control system and two new portable communication aids were on show at Naidex, in October.

The Belvair infra-red environmental control system was developed to meet the needs of people who have limited physical movement.

It can, for example, switch the tv and video on and off, change channels, and switch to teletext at the sound of your voice.

The Belvair is trained to the sound of the user's voice, even if they cannot communicate easily. As long as the verbal command is a consistent sound which the

system can be trained to recognise, it will operate.

It has 100 word voice recogniser, and is designed to be user-friendly, with a step-by-step visual display to explain programming terms and use.

A word of caution: the system is not available through the Department of Social Security so will have to be funded privately.

Quest Educational Designs (QED) have added two new portable communication aids to their range.

The Secretary is a development of the familiar Memowriter.

The Secretary has substantial text storage and editing facilities, and prepared texts can be output to a conventional printer.

Another new feature is that a small number of spoken messages can be recorded and saved to be produced by just two key presses. This allows you to produce a spoken message quickly, to gain or hold attention, while constructing a longer written one.

The Macaw is an extremely versatile communication aid. The keyboard version allows spoken messages to be stored quickly and simply.

It can be tailored to meet individual needs, depending on the quality of speech required, with a choice of two, four, eight or 32 keys.

You can also choose how to structure the stored information.

"The Macaw will be invaluable to a wide range of clients"

In the simplest set up, each key speaks a single message as soon as it is pressed. To allow more material to be stored, this style can be extended to up to eight levels. Alternatively, messages can be stored under a sequence of symbols.

The Scanning Macaw has all the features of the keyboard version, but also supports a variety of scanning methods for single or multiple switches, ranging from the intuitively simple linear scan to the efficient but cognitively demanding block/row/column scan.

The Macaw will be invaluable to a wide range of clients. As well as being versatile, it is smart and small and light enough to carry.

Belvair costs £795 plus VAT. Bickerstaff Electronics, Ross Business Centre, Campbell Street, Pemberton, Wigan WN5 9HT, tel: 0942 224937.

Macaw costs £692. Scanning Macaw is £995. Secretary costs £1295. QED Ltd, 1 Prince Alfred Street, Gosport, Hants PO12 1QH. Tel: 0705 581179.

Jeff Banks is a senior manager in The Spastics Society's microtech support services division. His report has been held over from the December issue.

Action for Disabled Customers



If you are disabled or know someone with special needs, then our new 1991 guide might interest you. It is full of ideas that could help you use the telephone, and it's free!

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A nice little number from Renault

David Griffiths, DN's motoring correspondent, takes the new Renault 19 Chamade for a spin



One of the main snags of four door cars for wheelchair users is getting in and out. The five door version of Renault 19 Chamade presents a greater problem than most.

It's not the size of the doors, or the opening angle, but the distance from the outside sill to the car seat edge. I measured a gap of just over 12 inches between the edge of the driver's seat and my wheelchair. Many may well find getting into it impossible.

But the doors do open wide, and there is good access for anyone able to stand. So people who can do this, or who are able to walk, should not be put off.

Once inside you quickly discover that this is a very welcoming, user-friendly piece of motorcar. Fascia and controls are nicely laid out, with easy to read instrumentation and excellent finger tip operation for all the main functions.

I was particularly impressed by the neat column mounted stalk which controls the radio functions. Although I prefer to concentrate on the serious business of keeping alive rather than on tuning in to a favourite wavelength, I know just how irritating and distracting it can be to have to search vaguely around the centre console in desperation trying to blot out the latest heavy-metal racket just as a congested junction approaches. None of this with the Chamade - just a gentle caress with the right forefinger and The Raving Thunks or Luigi Vermicelli, fresh in from El Gringo's opera

house on the Mexican Riviera, fades to oblivion ...

Well-shaped, very comfortable seating is firm and supportive with excellent quality finish. Indeed, the whole car has a quality look about it, despite a somewhat unimpressive sameness about the exterior. Both front and rear passengers have plenty of room to stretch, although with the front seats right back there is a shortage of knee space to the rear. Externally the car is clean, smooth, and the test example was nicely painted in a very attractive light blue metallic.

So much for the statics, how did it go? Well, very nicely indeed. Turn the key and the engine purrs into life, smooth and hushed. Slip into "drive" and the immediate impression is just how light the steering is as you turn into the traffic. I have driven cars with power-assisted steering which required more effort to control than this car. At

"Well shaped, very comfortable seating is firm and supportive with an excellent quality finish."

speed, it retains lightness with excellent feel. Progressing up toward the legal limit one quickly becomes aware of the absence of noise - any kind of noise. Engine and road rumble are virtually absent, whilst only the slightest windrush can be heard when cruising at 70mph. Added to this comes a feeling of positive safety as the car sits snugly on the road, taking



The Renault 19: just turn the key and the engine purrs into life, smooth and hushed...

curves, humps and potholes in its stride. Only ripple concrete on the M54 in heavy rain transmitted vibrations into the passenger compartment. To this hushed, safe cruising ability is added a splendid automatic transmission in true Renault tradition offering smooth, rapid gear changes and excellent driver control if used manually.

Relaxing and comfortable, this is the ideal long distance cruiser from which to emerge fresh and alert, washed by Mozart or assaulted by heavy metal, as your right forefinger so wishes.

Minus points? Of course there are. Rearward vision is not good, and in heavy rain the water pours down the rear screen - it really does need a rear wash/wipe system. The bonnet is so heavy (a good safety point!) that I hope owners never have to

try lifting it, and getting in could prove impossible for some.

The car as tested came complete with Kempf sliding door/powered wheelchair loading but unfortunately the sliding door refused to relocate without some additional assistance.

I found the hand controls (Bekker push/pull) heavy on accelerator operation. The accelerator pedal itself is heavy anyway, but nevertheless I think there was need for some adjustment here.

The brakes however needed only the lightest of pressure to produce a smooth controlled stop, even at high speeds.

Central locking, electric sunshine roof and window, courtesy lights to the excellent low-level flat floored boot and glove box and rev counter all help to make this car what it is - refined, comfortable and with just a little

touch of class.

All in all, the 19 Chamade from Renault is a very nice little number.

The 19 Chamade is available on the Renault Disabled Motorists Programme. David tested the TSE version which costs £10,795. The automatic GTS version is £9,535. Manual versions start at £7,150. Details from your local Renault dealer or from Keith Baker, Renault UK Limited, Special Sales Department, Western Avenue, London W3 ORZ, tel: 081 992 3481.

* David Griffiths is preparing an article on the cost of car adaptations. He would like to hear from readers who have had car adaptations, particularly hand controls or foot pedals, and what they thought of the cost. Write c/o DN, address page 2.

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Letters to the Editor

Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

Motability: lost its way

All is not well with Motability, and this charity is not quite what it seems to be.

You performed a service by drawing attention to the comments made by Morigue Cornwell of the Banstead Mobility Centre (DN January). I believe she was fully justified in openly criticising Motability for its apparent ineptitude in the laggardly use and direction of income derived from the Tenth Anniversary Trust of £10million, set up in 1988, half being funded from taxpayers' money and half from banks.

That, however, is only part of the confused picture of an organisation which, in spite of (or because of) the large number of the great and the good who are its patrons, appears to have lost its way.

I am disturbed by other matters too, for example:

1 Why was it necessary for me to write three times and 'phone twice last year to obtain Motability's latest Annual Report - achieved only after writing to the chairman, Lord Goodman? Why the reluctance of a major charity to supply information to the public?

2 Why was Motability's name used to acquire £605,198 from "sponsors" in 1988 and to spend £601,009 of it on the "launch expenses" of a campaign for the promotion of lead-free petrol? What possible connection can exist between petrol and a charity whose stated objective is to assist the

disabled with their mobility problems, and whose logo is the wheelchair symbol? Who were the sponsors, and if such a large sum was forthcoming, why was it not dedicated to the interests of the disabled?

3 The entire administration expenses of Motability, amounting to £815,381 in year ended 31 March 1988 were reimbursed by a grant from the DHSS - that is taxpayers' money. Does this include the costs of administering the charity wing?

4 Motability's fundraising literature makes no mention of the £10m trust, but refers to 40,000 vehicles having been "provided" to the disabled in 1989, and says that "the 150,000th car provided by Motability was celebrated by a car handover at Motorfair."

Sir Richard Attenborough made an appeal on behalf of Motability on ITV on 13 January 1991. The trailer in for that programme describes Motability as "a charity that has provided more than 200,000 cars and 7,000 wheelchairs for disabled people since 1978." The script read "delivered" rather than "provided". But there is a clear inference either way that Motability is a worthwhile charity that gives cars and wheelchairs to the disabled, paid for by donations and legacies received. That is not the case.

Although Sir Richard made a fleeting reference to Mobility Allowance and the costs of

various car adaptations, the impression of that emotive advertisement soliciting donations from the general public was misleading. This slanted broadcast raises other questions.

I have recently written to Lord Sterling, chief executive of Motability, about some of these points, to seek clarification.

As an elderly amputee largely confined to a wheelchair, I admit to a special interest.

I would like to see a reorganisation of this hybrid, so-called charity, so that the properly charitable works are totally divorced and seen to be divorced from the car trade, brokerage and hire purchase business, however noble these activities are, and that such works are directed towards the true benefit of the disabled.

Ralph Irwin-Brown
Grayshott
Surrey

QEFD disassociates itself

I have read, under the headline "Motor charity slammed", the report of your interview with Morigue Cornwell in which she criticises Motability for holding back the £10 million which it received from the Government and banks.

Morigue Cornwell works for the Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for the Disabled (QEFD) at their Banstead Mobility Centre, which puts her among the foremost experts on enabling disabled people, some with very severe disabilities, to drive.

This is only one side of Motability's work, but it is the most difficult and most expensive side.

In pursuing, with the dedication it deserves, the objective of helping more severely disabled people to drive, QEFD is very much aware of Motability's wider duties, including the important one of keeping a large number of less disabled people mobile. In this respect QEFD does not support Morigue Cornwell's criticisms of Motability since they must take a long term view of their considerable responsibilities.

The foundation has a good case to make for funding its own activities and will continue to direct its energies to that end.

Hamilton of Dalzell
Chairman QEFD Executive Committee, Leatherhead, Surrey

Out of tune

Why is a Surrey mother-of-two writing to pop star Rod Stewart via SOS (Stars Organisation for Spastics)? A bit of idol worship from his early days, perhaps?

No - Georgia Martin wrote to the gravel-throated crooner to complain about the treatment Wembley Stadium gave her eight-year-old son, who has cerebral palsy.

They told her that if her son wanted to see the star he would have to sit in the wheelchair enclosure, apart from his family - which is impossible because of his age. Nor could he be carried to the front of the house because

South Bank shut-out

In your October issue you focused on a situation at the South Bank Centre where a blind patron was refused admission to a concert

In the light of this incident, the Centre reviewed all its procedures relating to patrons with disabilities; relevant entries in publicity material; guide access; information services etc.

Our review concluded that although the Centre's staff had always tried to help patrons with disabilities, even at short or no notice, more needed to be done to guarantee the level of service that could be offered without advance warning.

The monthly diary copy was revised. We now go much further in clarifying precisely what our licensing safety obligations mean for disabled patrons: "It is our responsibility to take every reasonable precaution for the safety of all patrons. This is why we ask you, if you have a disability that would make it difficult for you to evacuate the building unaided in the event of an emergency, to come with an able-bodied person (or a guide dog in the case of someone who is blind) when attending a ticketed performance.

By introducing an extra steward or usher to the two main halls for every performance we are now able to guarantee to accommodate disabled patrons who visit alone should they arrive unexpectedly, although we will continue to encourage advance notice in the interests of the highest standards of safety.

We can also offer a companion to disabled patrons who do not have anyone to accompany them on a particular date but who would like assistance of various kinds, eg to be met and shown to their seat, programme reading, interval drink ordering, etc.

Patrons select the types of assistance they would like.

This service needs to be booked in advance but can be arranged at a few days notice, is free of charge and available in all three halls.

Both the box offices and house management staff can make the necessary arrangements.

The current information about facilities for disabled people has been updated and rewritten, based on recommendations from the

house management staff.

Mike McCart
Director of Marketing and Public Affairs
The South Bank Centre
London SE1

RADAR apology

In the January issue of DN RADAR made a statement, with my authority, that the organisers of the Shelter Conference did not respond to a RADAR suggestion that they should approach us for a smaller amount of sponsorship than the £4,000 originally requested.

This statement was made in good faith.

Since then, however, a member of staff searching the files found a letter from Shelter posted in August requesting lower sponsorship. This letter was not drawn to my attention at that time, and in view of its discovery I would like to withdraw our original statement and apologise to all concerned for any distress or embarrassment caused.

Bert Massie
Director
RADAR
London W1

No school for Shelley

Mr Linden-Wyatt's article (DN, January) reveals a situation faced by many parents. The needs of multiply-disabled children pose the major challenge to our education services.

Education services in the past tended to be planned around the needs of children with a single disability; those with multiple disabilities were often thought of as "ineducable". Today these children often slip between the cracks of existing services and their needs are not met.

Fifty per cent of children with multiple disabilities have a severe visual impairment, yet often their visual impairment is ignored. A recent RNIB report, *New Directions*, focused on the needs of these children and made recommendations as to how suitable services may develop.

RNIB has five schools offering a range of services to these children. If any of your readers want any further information on the schools or on our other support services for parents, please contact me.

Jennifer Makin
Admissions Officer
RNIB
224 Great Portland Street
London W1N 6AA

device inserted in copies of the *Spectator*, which gives out a high-pitched noise, simulating tinnitus, when the magazine is opened.

According to the *Spectator* editor Dominic Lawson, Israeli embassy staff panicked because they thought it was a bomb.

But the *Observer*'s copy made no noise at all. "To waste money on a device that doesn't actually work and remains entirely silent - that really is creative and made me think of the experience of being deaf, among other things," commented the paper.



Share the caring with BNA

Looking after someone who's ill or infirm can be a worry. The more you care, the harder it may be to cope.

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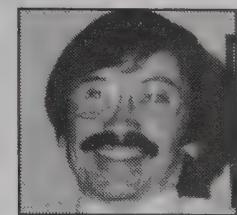
"I really couldn't believe that in this day and age, Wembley couldn't give my son a little enjoyment," she says. "He and others like him should be able to go to concerts of their choice without all these problems."

Noise about nothing

The Royal National Institute for the Deaf's new awareness-raising exercise seems to be raising a few eyebrows as well. It's a

Making friends and finding love

In the first of a *DN* series about relationships, Mike Long advises disabled people to take stock of themselves, stop blaming their disability and then dare to move out and meet people.



Love is in the air. I know because heart-shaped cards are in the newsagents, romantic articles in the magazines, and red roses in the florists. It's the time of year to talk about relationships and define love.

"Love is..." what? ... "doing the washing up together"? You either enjoy the fun or loathe the whole business.

Most people grow up with the expectation that they will have girlfriends or boyfriends, get married, be successful, have children of their own one day. Romeo and Juliet, Mills and Boon, films, TV, radio, advertising, there is no getting away from the romantic idyll.

The simple truth is that love and romance represent one of the strongest motivating forces in our society.

If, however, a person has a disability, achieving these aims may not be easy.

People with disabilities can face problems with access, mobility, accommodation, privacy, communication and finance. Help may be needed from another person - not for some the quiet dinner for two in private - and how do you whisper "sweet nothings" into someone's ear when you can't get to them or cannot speak too well?

Yet disabled people share the same hopes and fears, desires and aspirations, dreams and fantasies, worries and hang-ups as everybody else.

The ideal of wholeness and beauty, for example, is certainly reinforced by the media. But few of us, able-bodied or disabled, match that ideal, do we?

"It's hard to accept, but if we are to achieve social relationships with others, we need to get to know and like ourselves first."

One of the most important things to appreciate is that it is the "you" inside that counts, not what you look like. (Though obviously one wants to look clean!)

It's hard to accept, but if we are to achieve social relationships with others we need to get to know and like ourselves first.

It helps to have some accurate knowledge about ourselves too.

Disabled people often lose out during growing up in learning about relationships because they can't get out and about with girls or boys of a similar age. They don't experience the inevitable give and take of teenage relationships, with moments of support or frank criticism.

To make up for that, it is

important to read, see TV and films, talk with other people and listen to what they have to say about relationships.

It's sometimes difficult to work out exaggerated claims by some folk, but in reality often

people to deal with it. After all, who wants to always talk about disability, illness and other negative things all the time?

So, get to know the positives in your life and use them.

And always remember, too,

No one really knows; some call it "chemistry". But when people are pressed, how the other person looks usually comes way down the list of attributes, if it features at all.

Finding and maintaining



One way to make friends: sharing a common interest, like going to a football match. NEIL JOHNS

more is "said" than "done".

If you are lucky enough to find a true friend, where there is mutual trust and respect, honest feedback about yourself can be useful. It may be painful, but that is all part of growing up emotionally.

To deny a disabled person possible hurt is to deny that person a real place in a real world.

The only thing that any of us have any real power to change is ourselves.

We may not be able to change some of our circumstances, but we can change our responses and attitudes to the situations of everyday life.

For example, we sometimes (wrongly) blame our disabilities for failure in relationships.

Disabled people can be nice or nasty, dominant or submissive, extrovert or introvert, clever or not so bright, athletic or lazy, witty or quiet - all relevant to the person, not the disability.

Looking at ourselves and taking account of our strengths as well as our weaknesses can give us the confidence to go out and meet people. Others will then see us for what we are: individuals (who happen to have a disability).

As we will dislike some people, some may dislike us - because of who we are, not because of the disability.

Many able-bodied people are still ignorant and afraid of disability. An outgoing approach, treating the disability in perspective, helps other

that part of a good friendship is being a good listener - just being there is often the most that is needed.

What makes a friendship?

relationships is hard work. They don't happen by waiting for a magical person to appear. Meeting people with common interests is likely to produce

friendships. Think about what interests you and then do something about it - a course, a club, or even the local pub!

Some people need a lot of friends and acquaintances; others need only a few friends and their family. Relationships and their depth are very much an individual thing, but true friendships are about giving and receiving, the ability to survive "ups and downs."

The logo for the International Year of Disabled People summed it up: two people holding hands, reflecting equality, hope, solidarity and support.

So, people need people, even if the degree varies. From social contacts we grow, flourish and become more confident.

Our emotional development must include some hurt and pain along the way. But exposing ourselves to hurt may in the end lead us to find happiness with true friends who value us for who we are.

But remember, as you try to make your mark - across the divide, down the ski-slope, off the cliff, across the water, into the air - and all because ... don't forget the bloody chocolates! It's up to you.

Mike Long is a social services team manager and chairman of SPOD (Association to Aid the Sexual and Personal Relationships of People with a Disability).

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12 SERVICES

Ordinary homes for ordinary children

If you're looking for a new state-of-the-art social work idea in action don't come to Glasgow. For this is where you'll find the Ordinary Homes project, a scheme which prides itself on being just that - ordinary.

It opened last December to provide children aged 8-18, who have severe behavioural problems, disabilities and learning difficulties, with the kind of home life that some of them have not experienced in years. The idea came from the National Children's Home (Scotland), who were concerned that children were having long stays in hospital when there was no reason why they should not be getting similar care in a more homely setting.

Located in three ordinary houses in a residential area of West Glasgow, the Project provides permanent care for four severely mentally and multi-handicapped children, two special assessment places and short term care for around 45 youngsters, with additional services and support for parents.

Created out of a partnership between NCH Scotland, Strathclyde Regional Council, the Greater Glasgow Health Board and Glasgow District Council Housing Department, it will cost £500,000 a year to run.

Taken on their own, each service is not new. The project only seems remarkable if you know what went on before.

Ordinary Homes replaces the service that children and families got from Ward 3 of

Drumchapel Hospital. This is a large Victorian institution on the fringes of Glasgow which, according to staff who worked there, was a depressing and demoralising place for families and patients. Every decision was an official one - from what to eat to when to cut the grass. It was closed in August last year and has since re-opened as a home for elderly people.

In contrast, 13 Kinellan Road, the permanent care unit, is a cosy little house with a nice garden and a warm, welcoming atmosphere. It is home to four young people, ages 14-19, and three staff who take turns sleeping there.

Pam Uppington, project leader, used to work in Drumchapel. She says that already the difference in the young people is remarkable and the reason for it is simple: "In hospital they weren't seen as individuals, here they are."

Kenneth is 14 and has cp. For the first time he has the same three people caring for him who have the time and the willingness to make everyday activities such as eating enjoyable. Kenneth is now putting on weight and growing.

Maxine, who also lives at 13 Kinellan Road, took a few weeks to adjust to the move. Her mother and brothers find visiting her here is a lot better than sitting in a hospital ward full of strangers. They can now drop in, relax with others in the sitting room, or go into Maxine's room.

The second part of the service offers short term care.

Fiona is 10 and has severe learning difficulties. She lives at home with her parents, gran and

The new pioneers

DN takes a look at innovative projects making their mark in 1991 among



A room with a view: Minister Michael Forsyth, Mrs McCann and her daughter Maxine in her room

younger brothers. When her parents needed a break in the past, Fiona was placed in hospital with strangers. She didn't like it, and the family felt they had no choice.

Now Fiona comes to the Ordinary Homes Project. "I have my own bedroom and there are not so many people around all the time. People here are my friends and they have more time to play with me than the nurses did in the hospital. We go out in the car to parks, and the seaside, and for walks."

The third part of the project is a two place assessment centre. Previously, children with severe behavioural problems could have

faced up to six months in hospital while their needs were assessed. Now this can take place in an "ordinary home" setting with the family involved.

Although he prides himself on the project's ordinary nature, Gerry McGeoch is aware that some people may sneer at it for the same reason. That doesn't bother the people involved because they don't believe in grand ideas determining lives - they believe in ordinary lives for ordinary people.

Contact Pam Uppington, c/o National Children's Home, 17 Newton Place, Charing Cross, Glasgow G2.

More help for people with head injuries

If you were one of the one million people admitted to casualty departments with an injury last year, you could expect to get one of the best emergency care in the world.

But after the mad dash to casualty, the long slow road to recovery. In head injury the gulf between casualty and community can be huge, yet there are rehabilitation centres to help people c

Some 70,000 people in Britain today are living with the disabling effects of head injury. But there are only 60 rehabilitation units in Britain, one of which is for children. Of the 60, 11 are NHS funded and dedicated to head injury care.

According to Ian Garrow, director of Headway, the national head injuries charity, the problem is simple: "There is too big a burden placed on the voluntary sector and insufficient support from central Government."

Three new schemes - one run by volunteers, one by a charity and one by a private company - are now trying to change the situation.

The Scotcare Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit in Wishaw opened in June 1990 and is the first of its type in Scotland. Set in the wilds of Cambusnethan, it is quiet, luxurious, has 30 beds, four physios, five occupational therapists, one speech therapist, two social workers, two clinical psychologists, and 45 nurses - all experienced in head injury.

It is also a member of the Independent Hospital Association which means, if you haven't already guessed, that it is a private concern.

Treatment costs are £950 a week. Eighty per cent of patients are funded by the NHS, with the remainder funded privately through private health insurance or other means. The 30 bed unit currently houses nine patients.

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Meeting today's frontiers

with head injuries, children with disabilities, and job seekers.

Back to work training and skills

A pioneering new centre in Hampshire where disabled people can get training and the skills to return to work opened last July.

Enham Resource Centre helps disabled people who are unemployed, or lose their job because of an accident or illness. It is unique because it is attached to the manufacturing company Enham Industries, which is owned by the charity Enham Village Centre, where people can live. Over 150 people work at Enham Industries, many with learning difficulties and psychiatric problems.

"I only ever had work experience before," said Andrea Harrison, 29, who works in the cafe at Enham and has epilepsy.

The clinic will only accept people who are medically stable, "have the potential to be rehabilitated", and who are over 16. An initial interview leads to a week long assessment. If the clinic feels it can help, and the health board is willing to pay, clinical director David McNiven negotiates a price for an initial 12 week package of care. Patients get therapy "from waking to sleeping, seven days a week." Everyone has a key worker assigned to them, and families are kept involved throughout.

The emphasis is on concentration - of resources,



Scotcare's Fiona Mills, with Andrew Norrie, patient.

She is on one year's Employment Training, funded by the Government, and values the maths and English classes she gets at the centre.

"It's interesting working here," said Andrew McCombie, 37, who makes picture frames for £108 a week at Enham Industries. He couldn't find work after he left school because he has epilepsy, and had a nervous breakdown. "Before I always used to be miserable. I am finding myself here."

There is no more room at the moment for people who need full care, although people can commute to the centre or live in nearby Enham Alamein.

Everyone who wants to go to the centre gets an initial assessment, lasting two weeks and costing £600. It is usually paid for by the disablement resettlement officer but sometimes by parents or the

firm the person works for. This allows the occupational therapists to see how much supervision they need. Some people come just for the assessment, even if they do not stay longer.

"We have to put them under a certain amount of stress," said occupational psychologist Frances Douglass, "because that's what they'll find in the world of work."

Other income usually comes from Government grants for Employment Training or Youth Training. "Staying here involves a lot of juggling around with benefits," said Frances Douglass. The resource centre cost £1.3 million to build, paid for by Enham Industries and charities including the Tudor Trust.

Improving daily living skills is part of being at Enham. The flats and workplaces make up a

on the NHS.

The entire programme is geared to getting people back into the community. When they are ready, the unit liaises with official and voluntary agencies to set up a network of support services, which might include retraining, rehousing or care.

Kathy Johnson is deputy director of the unit and a social worker. She also does voluntary work for the Head Injuries Trust of Scotland (HITS), a charity which raises money for rehabilitation.

She explained what head injury means to families: "When someone has a head injury they've lost themselves and their family. It's as if you've had a death in the family but the person is still there."

After the injury, Kathy visits the family to find out how they are coping and to give them advice on anything from benefits to seeking compensation. Most importantly, she tries to explain how the head injured patient's life has changed, and how the family's life will do so. "A lot of people think, 'It'll be alright when he gets home.' Then they find they can't cope."

In a brave attempt to match the efforts of the private centre, HITS has opened the first resource centre for severely head injured people in Scotland. The volunteer-run centre, set up with the help of the Rotary Centre for Spastics, opened in Glasgow last month.

It will try to provide people with welfare and other advice and help them to help themselves. At the moment, only a couple of evenings a week are planned, and HITS are trying to raise £1 million to open their own full-time rehabilitation centre.

Recovering from a head injury means rebuilding a life and a personality. As well as the physical disabilities which may remain, there might be psychological, communication and cognitive problems.

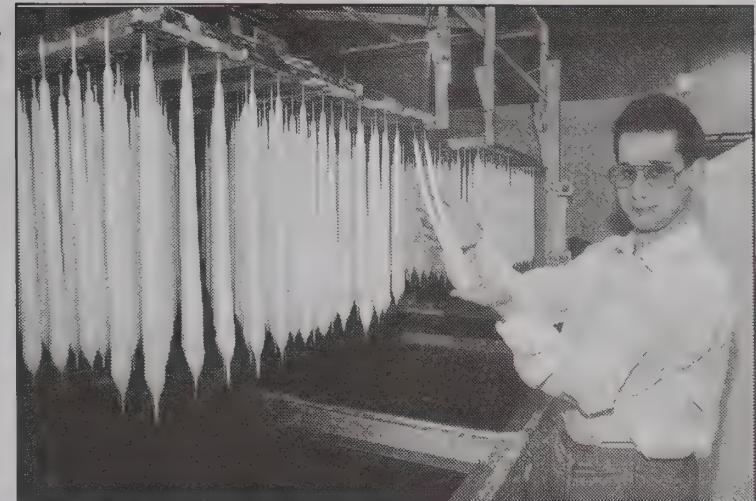
Although rehabilitation may take months or years (and "recovery" may never happen), there are no long term rehabilitation care facilities. According to Professor M Anne Chamberlain, Charterhouse Professor of Rheumatological Rehabilitation at Leeds University: "Apart from a few pilot schemes affecting a handful of people, virtually no special provision is made for residential care or longer term therapy leading to better integration anywhere in the UK."

But now this is set to change. Europe's first specialist long-stay residential centres for head injured people are soon to become a reality thanks to a partnership between Headway and the Disabled Housing Trust. Known as the Headway Project, one unit will open in Milton Keynes in September and the other in Leeds in January 1992.

Each unit will house 15 people and cost £1.5 million. Every resident will have a private room and facilities - "a real home" - with 24 hour support if they need it. There will be no "average" stay. It could be less than a year, but it might be two to three years.

The money to build the centres will come half from donations and half from loans. Rents and fees will be largely met by benefits and local authorities, with additional help - still to be arranged - coming from the Government.

The units will invite support



Waxing lyrical: Billy Walker shows off his handiwork.

campus-like community. "Parents often feel that young people are very isolated at home," said Frances Douglass. "Living here, people have a better social life."

"We did not want to be hidebound by Government thinking," she added. "Because we did not ask the Government for money to set up the centre, we are not tied to it for Government-sponsored tasks."

People can make anything

from furniture to packaging for bath salts. The work is competitive and done in eight-hour shifts. Customers include charities such as Oxfam and a range of companies.

The centre is also part of the European exchange project Helios, which funds study exchanges for the staff.

Enham Alamein, Andover, Hampshire, SP11 6JS, tel: (0264) 332133.

until it sees how successful the new schemes are.

In general, as Ian Garrow admits: "We're just touching the tip of the iceberg. A lot more needs to be done."

The new HITS centre needs volunteers, furniture and money. Contact Gayle McCauley, 7 Queens Crescent, Glasgow G1, Scotland.

The Headway Project, Disabled Housing Trust, Shinewater Court, Milfoil Drive, Eastbourne, E Sussex BN23 8ED.



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BOOKS

Mental Handicap: a challenge to the church

edited by Brian Kelly and Patrick McGinley
(Brothers of Charity Services, Lisieux Hall Publications, Whittle-le-Woods, Chorley, Lancashire PR6 7DX, £9 plus £1 p&p.)

There is always a danger when writing on issues that relate to people with learning difficulties that one sees such people as little children. This book avoids that trap completely.

As I read the contributions by 16 people who have dedicated their lives to bringing the spirit of God to those with learning difficulties, I found myself re-examining my own faith and how I should see those with a developmental handicap.

Due to a change in government thinking, many people with learning difficulties are moving from institutional settings out into the community. Inevitably, some of them will wish to be part of the family of the church. The challenge to the church is whether ministers, priests or members of a congregation will be ready to receive them. This book is a wonderful guide to prepare them for such an event.

If there are parents reading

this review who feel that to have given birth to a child with mental handicap was regarded as some kind of sin or punishment, because of the way they were excluded by the church, then they would do well to look at their child through fresh eyes. They would quickly find that their child is regarded as a precious gift from God, and that his or her simple trust is something that we would do well to emulate.

When the church accepts people with learning difficulties into its fellowship it should not assume that they have nothing to bring to worship. As David Wilson, one of the authors, explains (having celebrated Mass where people with a mental handicap were present): "The lessons learned have spilled over into all areas of liturgical practice in the church."

There are several moving case histories that illustrate both the needs of the carer and the particular gifts of a person with learning difficulties. Joseph, for example, lived for the moment, cared nothing for personal possessions, loved people and saw his spiritual life in terms of celebration. Would that we could always do the same.

Although this book teaches us the importance of a child-like faith, it is certainly not devaluing to people with learning difficulties. The contributors take into account each person's age and respect it. They respect that every person, whatever their mental capacity may be, has the



Hawkridge: going to the top

right to find faith and experience the love of Jesus: "A church without handicapped people is a handicapped church."

Lin Berwick

Uphill all the Way

by John Hawkridge
(Michael Joseph, £15.99)

John Hawkridge, who has CP, is probably best known for his 18,000 foot climb up Kala Patthar, which sits in the shadow of Everest in the Himalayas.

The climb was filmed for a BBC documentary called *Everest: the hardest way*, screened in 1989. This, together with his other outdoor exploits, won him the RADAR/Access Man of the Year title in the same year.

Uphill All the Way details his life from early school days, through the discovery of the delights of fishing, sport, the countryside, walking and climbing, alongside the inevitable wrangles with his family, the medical profession and, it seems, just about everyone else.

Bleak indeed are some of the finer points of his school life, although he appears on the whole to have enjoyed it.

The medical profession earned no Brownie points following "experimental surgery" on him when he was ten. He describes how he went for a run before the operation because he was sure he would never run again. He was right.

His determination to participate in the society he lived in rarely faltered, and he continued to plug away at his goals, despite encountering some consistently ridiculous discrimination in his teens and adult life.

The book's strength lies in that single-mindedness.

But there is something slightly antiseptic about it as well. It is as if the author doesn't really want the reader to know who he is, and is talking about someone else's experience rather than his own.

There were times when I wanted to know more - at one

point, he manages to cram several major life experiences into three pages. Also, the insistence on calling himself "a spastic" was somewhat distasteful.

Nevertheless, the pleasure he gained from reaching his goals was obviously strong enough to make him believe the experiences were worth sharing, and the closing stages of his Himalayan climb, and the final chapter on "Philosophy and Reality", make some interesting points on what motivates John Hawkridge.

Book news

You and Your GP helps patients get the most from their doctor. £4.95 Bedford Square Press, 26 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3HU.

Read Easy is a directory of reading resources for adults with a mental handicap. £10.25 hardback, £7.50 paperback, J Whitaker and Sons, 12 Dyott Street, London WC1A 1DF.

Moving out: from hospital to our own homes, was written by five people who have done just that. £1.50, Carnegie Publishing, 18 Maynard Street, Ashton, Preston, Lancs PR2 2AL.

Read all about "a unique programme of community based rehabilitation for disabled people" in *Zimbabwe: steps ahead*. £4.50 from Catholic Institute for International Relations, 22 Coleman Fields, London N1.



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FILM

Cyrano de Bergerac

Jean-Paul Rappeneau's rendering on the big screen of Edmond Rostand's hugely popular play, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, is a cinematic banquet to behold.

It is an exuberant, swashbuckling romance, with a stirring score, sumptuous visuals and a forceful central performance from Gerard Depardieu, which has its roots in the movies of Flynn and Fairbanks as much as the classic French theatre.

Cyrano is a poet and a soldier living in 17th Century France.

Cyrano is in love with his beautiful cousin Roxanne, but he is afraid to reveal his feelings.

He has an aspect of facial disfigurement, his nose to be precise, which he feels, and the disparaging comments of Parisian society appear to confirm, is a real setback where



Nosing around. Roxanne (Anne Brochet) with Cyrano (Gerard Depardieu).

romance is concerned.

After a night of verbal and martial heroics at the theatre, Cyrano is summoned to a rendezvous with Roxanne.

She tells of her love for Christian, a handsome yet shallow youth. Much to his dismay, Cyrano is asked to keep watch over Christian.

Heartbroken yet honourable to the last, he agrees.

Cyrano even finds himself wooing Roxanne for Christian,

due to the latter's lack of finesse in the art.

Enter the Comte De Guiche who is also more than a little interested in fair Roxanne.

He discovers the exploits of his two rivals and banishes them to the front in the war with Spain.

Christian is killed in battle and many years later, now living in a nunnery, Roxanne realises it was Cyrano who wooed her and that he is the one she has been

in love with all these years.

Cyrano is a fabulous tale, not just for its wit and eloquence. Its theme is of universal importance. A man loathes himself because he has a disability and is mocked by society.

But he develops the strength to affirm "my elegance is interior" and others learn to look beyond the disability and see the actual person.

Andy Kimpton-Nye

Steel Magnolias was a big hit in the cinemas and is now out on video. It is a gentle, bittersweet comedy of life and death struggles in everyday Louisiana, reminiscent of the Hollywood melodramas of the '50s.

The "Magnolias" are six women: Shelby (Julia Roberts); her strong willed mother M'Lynn (Sally Field); beauty parlour owner Truvy (Dolly Parton); wealthy widow Clairee (Olympia Dukakis); sharp tongued eccentric Ouiser (Shirley MacLaine); and shy outsider Annelle (Darryl Hannah).

VIDEO

Steel Magnolias

These six develop special bonds that transcend the boundaries of age and status. (It is refreshing to see a movie where there are so many featured female characters who aren't just male accessories.)

The story opens on the morning of Shelby's marriage to Jackson, a local lawyer.

After a swift introduction to the main players, we discover that on this, her happiest day, Shelby has cause to feel downcast. Her marital plans include a family but she is diabetic and has been advised by doctors not to have children. Some time after the honeymoon, Shelby announces that she is pregnant.

From this point on the film focusses on diabetes and how it affects one woman and those

close to her. The plot revolves around two questions - will she have the baby and if so what will be the outcome?

It is enormously positive to have this issue raised within a mainstream movie. But, without giving too much away, the film paints a very negative picture for diabetic mothers-to-be.

For a movie that is designed to be encouraging, *Steel Magnolias* must have the opposite effect on people who have diabetes or those close to them.

Andy Kimpton-Nye

ART

New light on sculpture

This exhibition is beautifully displayed and mounted. Every kind of "aid" is provided to help you enjoy the sculptures, from the innovative lighting to gloves, audio guides, tapes, and a large print catalogue.

As for the sculptures ... what a feast! They include well-known pieces and artists such as Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth, Anthony Caro, and Henri Gaudier-Brzeska. Two "installations", *Untitled* and *Shelf Life* by contemporary artists Andrew Sabin and Ron Haselden, were full of interest and imagination. Definite conversation pieces.

Linear Construction No 2, by Naum Gabo, was absolutely beautiful. It lit up magically, in a dark background alcove, and revolved slowly as if floating in mid-air. In the same space and as a contrast were *Atom Piece* by Henry Moore and the stunning *Eye, Nose, Cheek* by F E

McWilliam (in a pale coloured stone which showed so well against the black background).

These three sculptures were not for touching, but for most visitors they were so lovely (due to the lighting) that you could almost meditate by them, and they were easily described to people who couldn't see them.

The gallery also has room for wheelchairs to move easily.

The exchange of views between so many levels of vision enriches and illuminates everyday ideas of what we "think" we see.

Gioya Steinke

Admission £1. Tate Gallery, Albert Dock, Liverpool L3 4BB. Tel: 051-709 3223. Till 8 Feb.

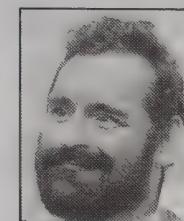
Look out for...

Imagine Drowning, starring Nabil Shaban, is about a journalist who disappears mysteriously. Hampstead Theatre, 29 January for six weeks. Tel: 071-722 9301.

The charity Action on Disability and Development is showing photographs of disabled people in India at the King of Hearts Centre in Norwich. Tel: (0603) 776129.

TV

World Disabled Games (BBC2, 22 Dec) was undoubtedly the best television treatment of disabled sport yet. The whole presentation was equal to other television sports coverage.



Now that they've got it right with physical disability, I look forward to future coverage of events such as the special Olympics with renewed hope.

In *Telethon - Thanks to You* (ITV, 25 Dec) the Campaign to Stop Patronage could see evidence that its pressure was working. As a result of its demonstration against Telethon last May, this report-back programme was rather defensive.

It said how much money was going to disability projects and how many of them would benefit. It also emphasised that many disabled people had fundraised for Telethon.

Although disabled people acted as reporters, physical limitations were still highlighted at the expense of social issues. The only crumb of comfort was a slight drop in sentiment.

Looking back over 1990, soaps made little progress. In *Brookside* Owen Daniels was only temporarily disabled; Mik Scarlet appeared for only three short scenes; and the story about deaf children left when Sheila Grant did.

In *Eastenders*, Mo Butcher's decline with Alzheimer's disease was realistic, largely thanks to a storyline which developed slowly rather than being artificially truncated. So it's a pity the character was removed from the serial before the natural end of her story. Not unlike Colin, who had MS, in a 1989 storyline.

Lloyd Tavener's sickle cell anaemia, though handled well, was confined to just two episodes (in October) and has not been mentioned since. I wonder how closely *Eastenders* will follow Mark Fowler's story, now that he has disclosed that he is HIV positive (10 Jan).

Granada, which produces *Coronation Street*, was also responsible for the film *My Left Foot* (ITV, 27 Dec). Pity that one can't rub off on the other, because, despite its faults, this is still the best disability film yet made.

Link is now 15 years old. No mean achievement! In comparing Patrick Nuttgens' opinions (ITV, 6 Jan) with those of Barbara Lizicki and Chris Harrison (ITV, 13 Jan) it shows the chasm which exists in our community. Whereas Nuttgens places his disability very low on his priority list, Lizicki and Harrison believe that it affects their whole personality.

I find Nuttgens' dismissive view negative and self-centred. I hope it is in decline amongst other people.

Chris Davies

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FACE TO FACE YOU STAND MORE CHANCE!

Share Your Problems

with Margaret Morgan

Social clubs: how about setting one up?



Creating a satisfying social life and making adult relationships can be difficult for young people with disabilities.

Able-bodied people can make or break relationships and try out a range of activities when young.

But trying to keep up if you have mobility or communication difficulties can be daunting, if not impossible.

Yet you may feel you don't want to mix with young people with similar disabilities to you.

These letters pose some of the questions that often arise, especially amongst young people who have life-long disabilities or who have, for one reason or another, missed out on ordinary teenage experiences.

"I am looking for more social contacts, but I'm not doing all that well. I've been disabled since I was 14, and I missed a lot of school. I have tried the meetings at our local disabled group, but I don't really enjoy being with those who are more handicapped and older than I am. I can't see myself falling in love with a disabled girl, but I don't get very far with other girls either. When I was at school I enjoyed being one of the gang and I was very keen on

football and other sports. But my old mates don't seem to have time for me any more. I wonder where I fit in."

"I have just returned to Bombay after post-graduate studies in Oxford. I have cp and would like to start some social club activities for spastic young people in India, many of whom live rather sheltered lives. But Bombay is a very large, busy city and it may be difficult to get people together. I wonder too whether any Indian able-bodied young people would be interested. I have heard of '62 clubs. What are they and how are they different from PHAB (Physically Handicapped and Able-Bodied) clubs?"

Some people may question the concept of special clubs these days, but it's important to keep all the options open and my first correspondent does point to an unmet need.

Maybe the club he mentions is just dull or geared to an older age group, but I wonder why he finds it hard to mix with club members. Perhaps they keep reminding him of the negative aspects of his disability? Possibly he thinks that others

see him as just "one of them."

His response is understandable, but why discriminate against other people with disabilities? It isn't only able-bodied people who need to guard against prejudice and labelling. People have said to me that there is a hierarchy amongst different disability groups, with acquired physical disability near the top and multiple disabilities and brain damage near the bottom.

This is where the '62 clubs came in, in 1962. It was a social club movement initiated by The Spastics Society to provide opportunities for people with life-long disabilities, such as cp, to be in the driving seat rather than in the back of the car for committee work and organising social activities.

'62 clubs were run by and for people with disabilities and were so successful that they no longer exist! During the '60s and '70s hundreds of young people gained self-confidence and experience through being in club leadership and were able to move into integrated social groups and take on full adult responsibilities.

Many discovered that others with disabilities were ordinary men and women like themselves, with lots of common interests.

At this stage, '62 type clubs may offer appropriate experience and social outlets to young people with cp in India.

PHAB activities were originally set up for teenagers and PHAB still provides valuable social and holiday opportunities for mixed groups of young people.

It can sometimes be difficult to attract able-bodied people of the same age as disabled members, and unless there is experienced help and support available, misunderstandings with relationships can arise.

I suggest my second correspondent sets up a central '62 club with small branches in different parts of Bombay. This would alleviate the transport problems and let more people get direct experience.

My first correspondent might like to look again at the local disability group and try to analyse why it doesn't attract him. Maybe he could exert his influence to change attitudes or start up something new. To get started, he could send for information about how the '62 clubs operated.

What about going to the local leisure centre or joining a special sports club? Many leisure centres aim to meet a wide range of needs and have facilities for specialised and integrated activities.

Good luck to you both!

British Sports Association for the Disabled, Maryglen Haig Suite, 34 Osnaburgh Street, London NW1 3ND, tel: 071 383 7277, has lists of specialised and integrated clubs. PHAB, 14 London Road, Croydon CR0 2TA, tel: 081 667 9443, has details of clubs, holidays and other activities. For information on '62 clubs contact Bill Hargreaves, c/o DN, address page 2.

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PROFILE



Gerry Kinsella

An MBE in the New Year's Honours list for Gerry Kinsella, 41, is a belated recognition of his pioneering work with disabled Merseysiders.

In 1982 he started his fight against "bare-faced abandonment" by authorities and lack of coordination between government departments.

He helped to found a charity run by and for disabled people. Then he pushed himself from Land's End to John O'Groats in a wheelchair in 1982 to raise £20,000 which, with an urban aid grant of £30,000, funded the renovation of a building which had been empty for four years and was falling apart.

"The ceiling had caved in, it was riddled with dry rot and the leading had been stolen from the front," he recalls.

But 12 volunteers, mostly disabled, worked 14 hours a day for seven days a week. Local businesses who worked with them were so impressed - and shamed - by the volunteers' efforts that they dropped their prices. Eight months later, in September 1983, the Greenbank Project opened.

It now runs a restaurant, a wheelchair manufacturing business and a printing service. One hundred and fifty young disabled people are training there under the YTS (Youth Training Scheme).

An ambition for the future is the Westfield Project, a £2.3 million halfway house between home and work training for young disabled people. They will live there and get training in assertiveness, health and

independent living, and there will also be a workshop to prepare them for training schemes.

"Young disabled people need the skill of believing in themselves, and also the skill of telling people to get lost."

Greenbank still needs £450,000 to build the part closest to Gerry Kinsella's heart - the sports hall. Sport transformed his life, and he has won countless Olympic and Commonwealth gold medals.

He says sports training uses a person's potential, developing their "inner self" instead of making them learn alien techniques, and this principle applies to any other situation, including work.

But Westfield may suffer from Liverpool council's cash crisis, brought on by a low poll tax collection rate and debts.

"The crisis is very threatening for the voluntary sector, including us. We could have the situation that the city council is strapped for cash when we need it most."

He hopes the businesses that Greenbank has set up will show employers good examples of employing disabled people, although only the Chevron wheelchair-making project is approaching profitability.

He is tired of preaching to employers who pretend to be converted. "It's no good trying to go to an audience that's a sea of nodding heads. I would much rather have a good old argument - an honest exchange of views."

But he rejects more militant ways of changing attitudes, calling the recent traffic-stopping demonstrations "naive and backward": "I do not think sitting in the road in your wheelchair for half an hour creates anything more than irritation."

Instead he prefers "infiltrating" council and government departments.

A wheelchair user since he got polio as a one-year-old, he is married and has three children: Christine, 11, Rachel, 8, and Lindsey, 2.

"A lifetime of embitterment and experience" motivates him to get new initiatives off the ground. "I've been very active and very fortunate. I do not think I would have had the same lifestyle if I had been able-bodied."

Rebecca Reynolds

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I was allowed two guests for the investiture, so of course it was my mother and father.

In many ways they enjoyed the event more than I did. They were sitting down comfortably watching, while I was concerned about getting everything right!

We met at my office and I drove them to the palace. Having allowed for traffic jams, we arrived 15 minutes early - though we were by no means the first.

The palace gates opened precisely at ten o'clock, and we were waved in while the traffic was held up to make way. (It was even more fun leaving as the traffic was stopped for each individual car.)

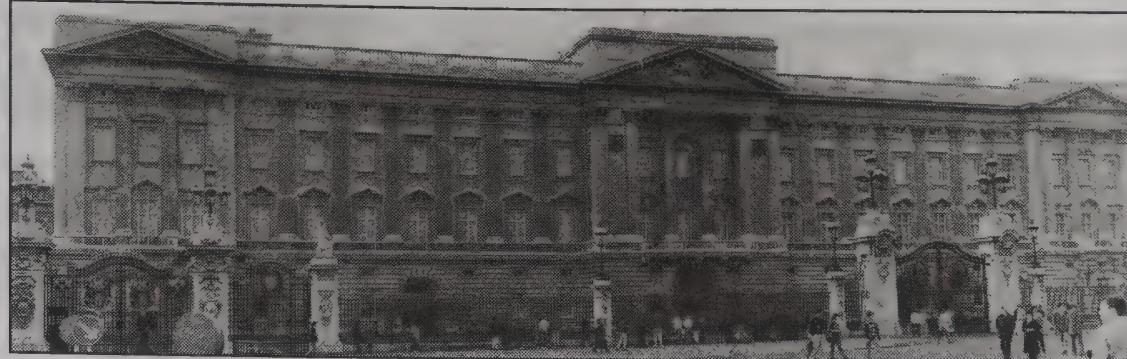
I had told the palace that we would find it easier to go up to the ballroom by lift, so I was given a special car space in the outer courtyard. We went in by a side door and were met by a footman. (He had a marvellous knack of re-appearing just when I needed him!)

While my parents were taken off to the ballroom, he took me to a picture gallery where those receiving OBEs and MBEs were gathering.

A hook was fastened to my lapel so that the MBE could be hung rather than pinned in place. Then I gravitated to a couch along the wall, though most people stood in the middle of the carpet.

I found myself next to a pleasant man who turned out to be the cricketer John Lever.

The briefing - given by a man



PRESS ASSOCIATION

Inside the Palace

in dress uniform and spurs - was rather daunting. We were told how to enter the ballroom, and when we would be expected to bow or curtsey, go forward, and receive our insignia.

What rattled me was hearing that one was expected to walk six paces backwards after shaking hands with the Queen. When I said I would find that bit difficult, the officials said it would not be necessary, but the whole idea somewhat dented my confidence.

After the briefing "my" footman reappeared and took me down several long corridors, through the ballroom and into an annexe. There I found several other people with disabilities and we all sat waiting our turn.

Everything was beautifully timed. One or two footmen would appear and help one of our group to join the file and



Valerie Lang explains what it feels like to receive an honour

approach the Queen with the minimum of standing time.

"My" footman appeared at my side when it was nearly time to go. He offered to stay with me and make his bow at my side, and I decided that would

be safer.

People have asked me what the Queen looked like. Beyond the fact that she was dressed in green, I'm afraid I really don't know!

By the time I was close to her, I was aware that I had made rather a mess of my "bob", but I was concentrating on making the right replies. Even then I forgot to say "Your Majesty" or even "ma'am"!

As she picked up the insignia she said, "I am delighted to give you this." While she may well say that to everyone, it does make the whole thing feel quite personal.

Then she surprised me even more. The Lord Chamberlain read the citation, saying "services to the disabled". HM said: "I believe it is for services to transport for the disabled." After the handshake, I turned and walked off to the right,

forgetting even to try and "bob" a curtsey.

Still, I expect my escort made his bow, and as there was no audible intake of breath, I suppose my gaffe was not too great.

As soon as I left the ballroom an official removed the MBE which the Queen had just hung on my jacket, together with its hook. It was put in a cushioned box and returned to me. Then I was escorted to the back of the ballroom where I could sit and watch the rest of the proceedings.

What I remember most were the six enormous chandeliers, and the raised seating around three sides of the room for guests, so they must have had an excellent view.

After we had been reunited and taken down by lift, we said goodbye to the marvellous footman. I was impressed that someone with a discernible speech impediment had been taken on by the Palace 20 years ago. He really had made all the difference to my being able to cope with the morning.

Going for photographs, I missed the correct arch to the inner quadrangle, so had the excuse to do a sweeping turn on the gravel of the outer courtyard.

What with drizzle and heavy traffic, it was 1.30 pm before we got to the restaurant for a celebratory family lunch. But it was still superb, complete with pink champagne. Altogether an unforgettable day.

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THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

WHAT'S ON

Priority For Equality, a conference on local government and equal opportunities. 15 February at Congress House, Great Russell Street, London WC1. £80.50. Details from The Local Government Unit, Second Floor, 1-5 Bath Street, London EC1V 9QQ, tel: 071-608 1051.

Workshops on Disability Issues to discuss the formation of Leicestershire Coalition of Disabled People. 16 February at Aylestone Leisure Centre, Leicester. Tel: Mark or Lata Allman: (0533) 527373.

The 1989 Children Act: Multi-Agency Implications. A conference on 18 February in Cheadle, Cheshire. £45. Contact the Boys' and Girls' Welfare Society, Central Offices, Schools Hill, Cheadle, Cheshire SK8 1JE, tel: 061-428 5256.

Community Care - Hobson's Choice? A seminar organised by The British Association of Domiciliary Care Officers on 21 February in Bournemouth. More information from Penny Bonnor-Moris, 7 Anton Road, Andover, Hants SP10 2EN, tel: (0264) 65156.

Recent Experiences in Canada on the Employment of Persons with Disabilities, a lunchtime seminar. 22 February at Camden Town Hall, London. £10. Bookings by 15 February. More information from Linda Moore, King's Fund Centre, 126 Albert Street, London, NW1 7NF, tel: 071-267 6111 ext 268.

The Equipment Maze - Buyer Beware? A one day conference. 28 February at Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Buckinghamshire. Costs on a sliding scale. Further details from Tony Travis, Development Officer, Disabled Living Centres Council, tel: 071-266 2059 (day) or 071-482 3766 (evening).

Employment Seminar for people with disabilities looking for work. 1-2 March in North London. £85 (concessions available). Details from Deborah Steele, Excel Employment, 2 High Street, Hornsey, London N8 7PD, tel: 081-348 8141.

Tourism For All in Europe. Conference hosted by the English Tourist Board and the Holiday Care Service. 14-15 March at the Gatwick Sterling Hotel. £207. Information from Sarah Dale Travel Company, 25 Amies Street, London SW11 2JL, tel: 071-223 7986.

Castle Priory

Work placement schemes for adults with learning difficulties. £169. 4-6 March.

Waldon's Way. £39. 8 March.

Learning with rebuses - the contribution of rebuses to the National Curriculum. £39. 9 March.

Non-residence charges available on application. Further information from Castle Priory College, Thames Street, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 0HE (enclose SAE), tel: (0491) 37551.

Every year according to *Which?* magazine, about 700 people die and thousands more are injured in fires in their homes. Stewart Kidd, director of the Fire Prevention Association, says disabled and elderly people are particularly at risk.

The National Housing and Town Planning Council estimate that smoke alarms could save



CHECKOUT

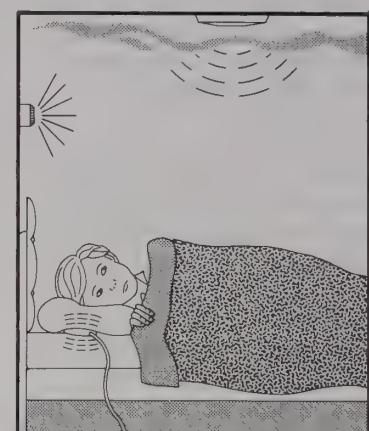
over 300 lives each year. Precious minutes and even your life could be saved by fitting an alarm which beeps when it senses smoke. Yet only a third of households have smoke alarms.

Standard alarms cost between £5 and £30. Always look for the British Standard BS5446 Kitemark which shows that the brand has passed a quality test.

For people with limited mobility, testing ceiling-fitted alarms can be a problem and they should look for models with an automatic test or torch test facility. The torch test allows you to test the alarm by waving a beam across it. Alarms with an automatic test have a built in timer which starts when you put the battery in and sounds the alarm for three seconds at the same time every week.

Last year *Which?* tested three models with these features. The Addis AS01179 has an automatic test, £14.99 from Co-op shops. Two alarms with a torch test are the First Alert SA90TT (see left) which costs £10 from Woolworths and major DIY stores and the First Alert SA150TT £19 from DIY stores which has a built in escape light.

Alarms for deaf people work in the same way but their "warning signs" are flashing strobe lights or vibrating disks which fit under the pillow (see below). With the Smokie from Summit you get the option of a strobe or vibrating disk. £55 plus £2.50 p&p, tel: 021-554 6946. The Deaf Alert from Arc Fire Protection Ltd is fitted with both strobe and vibrating disk, £67.50 plus £3 p&p, tel: (0489) 582789. The Smoke Alarm from Deaf Universal Aids Ltd is £42.95 with the vibrating pad or £52.95 with the strobe plus £2.85 p&p. Sound Advantage, the Royal National Institute for the Deaf's marketing company, sells its own independently tested alarm (you may have seen the current advertising campaign). It comes with a strobe light. £75 plus £2.50 p&p. Tel: (0733) 361199.



INFO

The Disability Benefits Consortium is organising an action campaign, 28 January to 22 February, culminating in a national week of action targeted at Westminster. Visit or write to your MP and ask for a proper disability income scheme for disabled people. For more information and a free fact pack containing guidance on lobbying and suggested letters to MPs, contact Martin Prestage, tel: 071-383 0148.

If you are a disabled student thinking about your future career, the **Disabled Graduates Careers Information Service** may be able to help you. Ring Jean Brading or Frances Laybourn on (0734) 318659 between 10am and 2pm or write to DGCIS, Room B10, Bulmershe Court, University of Reading, Woodlands Avenue, Reading RG6 1MY.

Caresearch is a computerised database which matches the needs of people of all ages with learning difficulties to specific residential care provision. To contact the charity, tel: 081-847 3971.

Islington Council Women's Committee Newsletter comes out every two months and is free. Available in print, braille and on tape. For copies, contact Islington Women's Equality Unit, Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1 2UD, tel: 071-354 7133.

The **One-to-One Resource pack** details how effectively

friendship and enabling schemes for people with severe learning difficulties can be set up and run. £29.50 (inc p&p) from One-to-One, 404 Camden Road, London, N7 0SJ, tel: 071-700 5574.

Friskies Petcare Helpline (see picture below) is a telephone information service for pet owners provided by local volunteers.



To find out your local volunteer's number tel: 071-352 7220.

A new video for Asian parents of disabled children, called Awaaz, which means "voice" in Urdu, is now available in Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu and English. £11 (inc p&p) from MCCR, Elliot House, 3 Jackson's Row, Deansgate, Manchester M2 5WD.

Able to Attend is a good practice access guide for people who organise events for disabled people. £3 (inc p&p) from Julia Andrews, Employment Unit, National Council of Voluntary Organisations, 26 Bedford Square, London WC1.

The **Charities Digest 1991** costs £10.95 and is available

from Family Welfare Enterprises Ltd, 501-505 Kingsland Road, London E8 4AU, tel: 071-254 6251.

The **Restricted Growth Association** believes it is only reaching 15 per cent of British people with restricted growth. To find out more, contact them at 103 St Thomas Avenue, West Town, Hayling Island, Hants PO11 0EU, tel: (0705) 461813.

Your Child Has Cerebral Palsy, a new free pack for parents from The Spastics Society. Contact Helen Evans, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London, W1N 4EQ, tel: 071-636 5020.

The **British Red Cross** has produced a multilingual phrase book covering 28 languages. The book gives translations to more than 40 emergency questions. £8.50 (inc p&p) from British Red Cross National Headquarters, 9 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7EJ, tel: 071-235 5454.

MOVES

Stuart Etherington has been promoted from Director of Public Affairs to be the new Chief Executive of the Royal National Institute for the Deaf (RNID). **John Edkins** is the new Executive Director of the Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust. **Ian Garrow** has been appointed Executive Director of the National Head Injuries Association. **Ronald Brown** is now Assistant Desk Officer for Africa at Help the Aged. On 1 April **Andrew Russell** becomes the Executive Director of the Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (ASBAH).

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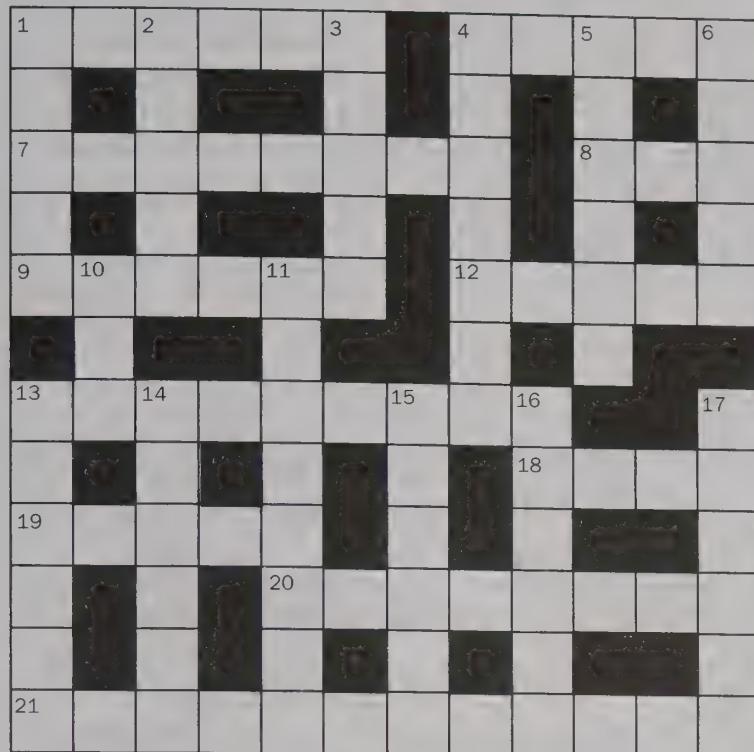
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DN's crossword

Answers page 22

COMPILED BY REBECCA REYNOLDS



ACROSS

- Way in - often denied to disabled people (6)
- Live or be (5)
- Carefulness - girl's name (8)
- Lion's name (3)
- Clothes (6)
- Bitter fruit - girl's name (5)
- Green side (anag)
- Suggestion or plan (4)
- Birds - or New Zealanders (5)
- Ragged (8)
- David Attenborough has one called Richard (5,7)

DOWN

- First letter of Greek alphabet or Spastics Society committee (5)
- Tennis or royal, for example (5)
- Association for deaf/blind people (5)
- Ugly sight (7)
- Embedded with jewels, for example (6)
- Treasure — (5)
- News at — (3)
- Enrol (8)
- Igloo resident (6)
- Seven English kings have been named this (7)
- Vanessa Redgrave has one called Lynn (6)
- Break down food in the stomach (6)
- Stroll - sounds like girl's name (6)

Win
a £5 prize

The prime minister John Major is seen here with Walt Disney character Chef Louis, at a Christmas party at 11 Downing Street for disabled children. But what else could he have been doing? If you have any witty ideas, write to Disability Now, address page 24, by 15 February.

Caption winner for January

January's £5 winner is Paul Sallam from Hampshire. Terry Wogan is saying: "It's a good job you're not this tall, you would be able to see the join!"



...NEWS QUIZ...

- Which former director of The Spastics Society became a junior environment minister?
- Which football team captain was jailed for drink-driving?
- How much compensation did people with haemophilia win for getting AIDS through blood transfusions?
- How did the Golden Globe Trust break its promise to give £600,000 to charity in its first year?
- What rose 14 per cent in the year ending September 1989?
- What fell by one per cent in 1989?
- Who awarded honours to a cleaner called Edwina and a cook called Sherry?
- How long was British woman Karyn Smith's sentence for trying to smuggle heroin into Thailand?
- Which minister resigned from the Soviet government?
- Which company performed all of Shakespeare's plays in 90 minutes?

For answers, see below

Fun, fulfilment and frolics

It's a curiosity that even those who advocate an open and imaginative approach to relationships and sex often count disabled people out of the game.

In search of enlightenment and ideas on physical relationships many people turn to Dr Alex Comfort's book *The Joy of Sex*.

Disabled people turning this way will find neither comfort nor joy.

The book opens by saying everyone who is not disabled is capable of enjoying sex, counting the disabled population of the world out of the joys of procreation and associated activities.

Reading this strange statement was something of a

shock to the system. For lengthy milli-seconds I was floundering, reconsidering my life.

Could it be that my experiences thus far were the products of a hyperactive imagination?

Should I be writing Harold Robbins-style bestsellers?

Certainly not. I would never consider writing such books - well, not unless I was offered a multi-million dollar fee.

After minimal research, plain facts plus awareness of a happy and fulfilling relationship reaffirmed themselves. Dr Comfort's assumption that disability equates with inability could not be further from the truth.

It may be true that there are

no accessible buses on the road to true love. But it's equally true, as the old cliche says, true love never runs smoothly. Relationships, especially of the romantic kind, are all about individualism.

The roads to romance, the route and the destinations, are there for the choosing. Disability, like gender, race, and of course, sexuality, influences where we're at and where we're heading.

Having a disability just means there may be different routes and different destinations. They don't necessarily have to end up in the bedroom and, if they do, working out the physical aspects of the relationship can be half the fun.

So, we should not be put off by the good doctor's casual dismissal of disabled people's sexuality.

Not being able to, or not wanting to, perform the acrobatics in books like *The Joy of Sex* (which may result in acquiring a disability by the look of some of them) is no handicap to fun, fulfilment and frolics.

Michael Turner

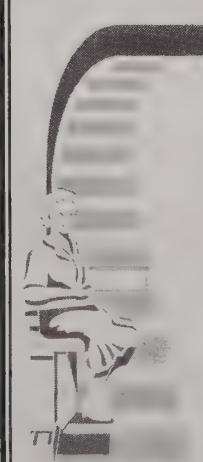
...NEWS QUIZ ANSWERS...

- Tim Yeo
- Tony Adams, Arsenal's captain
- £42 million
- Based, Skibball, was too popular
- The game on which it was based, Skibball, was too
- The rate of offences for Baylis theatre.
- The crime rate
- London's Library company, at London's Library
- The Reduced Shakespeare Company, at London's Library
- 25 years
- Foreign Minister Edward Shevardnadze
- Margaret Thatcher, in her
- Resignation honours list
- Drunkennes

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DUDLEY POWERPLUS electric wheelchair with kerb roller and charger unit. Also leggins etc excellent condition, little used. £500 ono. Tel: Mr Bryan (05036) 2054.

Please send a cheque for £3 payable to *Disability Now* with your ad.

EVEREST & JENNINGS Wayfarer electric chair, mint condition £1,950. Also, electric rising armchair £195, adjustomatic bed £495 and other lifting equipment. Tel: 081-954 1330 (Stanmore, Middx).

DUDLEY POWER PLUS wheelchair. Kerb-climber. Service, new batteries. £650 or near offer. Tel: (0707) 50702 (evenings only).

TWO STAIRLIFTS (minivator) each for 12/13 stairs. Hardly used. New in 1990. Cost £2,600. Sell £650 each or £1,200 for pair. Tel: (0491) 37926.

EVERAIDS TURBO wheelchair mark 5, 1985. Red. Suitable for child 2 years upwards. Spare wheels and tyres. £800 ono. Tel: (0993) 812004 (Oxon).

BATRICAR. Good as new. New battery. £975 ono. Tel: 081-427 7041.

ELECTRIC CARCHAIR with side supports plus electric lift post system for fitting into Nissan Prairy or suitable vehicle. Price £1,500. Tel: (0253) 51058.

SPACIOUS ADAPTED 2 bedroom bungalow. Suitable for tetraplegic disability. Including ceiling hoist in bathroom with access to bedroom. Excellent local care attendant scheme. Price £105,000. West Ewell, Surrey. Tel: 081-397 1630.

EVEREST & JENNINGS Elite powered wheelchair. 14in seat. Complete with batteries and charger. Little used. £600. Tel: (0530) 33156.

VOLVO 343 DL 1981. 57,000 miles. Hand controls, auto, gears, MOT. Years warranty, taxed. £1,600. 33 Giffard Way, Long Crendon, Bucks, HP18 9DW.

CHAIRMAN ASTRA VAN adapted for wheelchair. F reg. Auto power steering. £7,000. Brooks 14 stair chair lift. £200. Double Adjustamatic bed. £1,000. Dudley electric wheelchair. £700. Tel: 081-303 9829.

ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIRS scooters, battery cars. All makes, models wanted and for sale. Nearly new, hardly used from half price. Demonstrations and collections. Free advice. All areas.

Contact Mr Gibbons
Tel: 021-357 4965 anytime.

GBL SERVICES MANUAL LIGHT WEIGHT WHEELCHAIRS

(New & Secondhand [All Types])

- Bought and Sold
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- Parts Supplied ... Fitting Available
- Hiring Service Available
- Wheelchair Skills Coached

Advice and Alternative Enquiries
Welcome Contact: Jamie:
100 Midsummer Avenue,
Hounslow, London TW4 5BB
Tel: 081-742 1620

CENTRAL MOBILITY

Nearly new, battery cars, scooters and electric wheelchairs, bought and sold throughout the country.

For further information and advice contact us anytime on

 021 366 6796 

CLEVELAND



COUNTY ARCHITECTS DEPARTMENT

RE-ADVERTISEMENT

ACCESS OFFICER SO1/2 £14,160 - £16,476 Ref: CA 468

This newly created post reflects the Council's commitment to the provision of facilities within the built environment for people with disabilities.

You will be required to provide positive support and focus for the Council's policy in the identification and dealing with deficiencies in provision for people with disabilities in public building and environment and provide advice to outside bodies, associations, etc.

You must be a person with a disability (although not necessarily registered as disabled); be acquainted with the problems encountered in a built environment by people with a wide range of disabilities; have a basic understanding of technical terms and drawings; have good communication skills.

Full removal expenses, Estate Agents/legal fees will be paid in approved cases. In addition a payment for disturbance/settling-in costs and a lodging allowance will be made where appropriate. Temporary housing accommodation may also be available within the County area. A car leasing package is available to all authorised users.

Interested candidates are invited to contact David Johnson, County Architect, for an informal discussion (0642 248155 ext 3101) or write to the County Architect, PO Box 43, Teesside House, 108A Borough Road, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS1 2HG for information pack and application form (0642 248155 ext 3148). Closing date: 15th February 1991.

Previous applicants will automatically be reconsidered and need not re-apply.

We are working towards equality for women, black people and people with disabilities. Job sharing arrangements will be considered and all applicants who have the support of the Disablment Resettlement Officer will be granted an interview.

Co-ordinator Deaf & Disability

Channel 4 has done much highly regarded work to promote greater public awareness of all disability issues. In line with this, we are also committed to creating more opportunities and providing more representation for the deaf and others with disabilities, both on and off screen. To help us do this we are looking for a Co-ordinator Deaf & Disability.

Although based primarily in the Education Department, you will be called upon to assist all Commissioning Editors and other departments as and when required. Principal duties will include co-ordination of subtitling and signing services, training and employment schemes, participation in our disability advisory group meetings and liaising with Deaf and Disability



CHANNEL FOUR TELEVISION

organisations and communities.

Offered on a part-time consultancy basis, this crucial role calls for good research skills plus the ability to work with a wide range of people. Some experience of working in the media would be useful but is not essential.

Channel 4 is an equal opportunities employer and applications from people with disabilities are welcomed as are applications from potential job sharers.

Please apply in writing, enclosing a full CV to the Personnel Department, Channel Four Television, 60 Charlotte Street, London W1P 2AX by 11th February 1991 quoting reference GP/1/DN.

HOLIDAYS

BRITTANY COTTAGE to let. Fully adapted for wheelchair use. Good access to beaches. Sleeps up to 6. Details C Hodgson. Tel: (0924) 454300.

THE CORNISH SPASTICS SOCIETY VARCOE HOUSE HOLIDAY FLATS

Two well equipped, self catering flats, each to sleep five to six people, especially adapted for the disabled.

Level access to flats and nearby sandy beach. No stairs, ample parking. Seasonal prices range, to cover maintenance only, £65 to £75 per week.

Details from: Booking Manager
Mr L.E. Elliott
3 Bosvean Gardens, Illogan
Nr. Redruth, Cornwall TR16 4DH
Tel: 0209 218650

For a trouble-free holiday with all the family try:

ASHWELLTHORPE HALL HOTEL a discreetly adapted manor house set in acres of beautiful grounds. 22 bedrooms - licensed bars - free use of wheelchairs - mini-bus.

Tel: (050841) 324
or write to: The Manager
Ashwellthorpe Hall Hotel
Ashwellthorpe
Norwich NR16 1EX

SUNNY TENERIFE

Fully Accessible Mar y Sol

"Brilliant" says BBC TV
Holiday Apartments - and Timeshare
Brochure: Lynne James, 7 Overpool Road,
Ellesmere Port L66 1JW. (Tel: 051-339 5316)

GLEBE FARM HOLIDAYS SELF CATERING COTTAGES FOR THE DISABLED

Glebe Farm, Charles Brayford
Nr. Barnstaple, North Devon EX32 7PT
Telephone: 0598 710241
Open all year. Wheelchair accessible.
Equipment available.
Tourist Board 4 keys and commended.
Please contact: Valerie Boddington

Try a **WINGED FELLOWSHIP** Holiday in Britain or Overseas. Great fun and full care provided. Write for free colour brochure. Winged Fellowship, Angel House, 20/32 Pentonville Road, London N1 9XD, tel: 071-833 2594.

**HIGHLAND HOLIDAYS - RED CROSS
HOUSE, INVERNESS**, offers Respite Care and Activity Holidays from March to November to adults with disabilities - from 16 years of age. A 24 hour Care Facility is provided by skilled Care Staff and Volunteers. Accommodation is single hotel standard bedrooms. Whether your requirements are for outdoor adventure or something a little quieter, why not contact us for details of what we have to offer? For further information and Holiday Brochure, please contact the Principal, Red Cross House, Mackintosh Road, Inverness IV2 3TX or telephone (0463) 234939.

MAR Y SOL, Los Cristianos, Tenerife. Wheelchair accessible apartments and studios to rent or buy in luxury complex. Heated pool with hoist, restaurant, health treatments. Video available. Cheap flights. Sue Abbott, 123 Coppermill Road, Wraysbury, Staines, Middx TW19 5NX, tel: (0753) 685718.

**WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE
HOLIDAY COTTAGE IN RURAL FRANCE** Charming cottage in Dordogne region available for rent. Reasonable rates. If you are looking for peace and quiet, warm weather, good food and wine, this is the place for you. For more information ring 081-459 1324 evenings



STILL MOVING course report

Shape London, the arts development agency working with disabled people and other under-represented groups, ran a successful three-month training course in film, photography and video workshop skills in Spring 1990. The course trained twelve students, seven of whom were disabled in the range of skills needed to initiate & run practical workshops in those media with different marginalised or institutionalised groups. The course offers a model of good practice for any organisation thinking of setting up similar courses teaching workshop techniques, or wishing to improve or increase their work with disabled users generally.

An evaluation report is available, priced £5 including p&p from

Keith Pickard
Assistant Director
Shape London
1 Thorpe Close
London W10 5XL

WANTED

PARKER CARE or similar chair with fully automatic leg raiser. Tel: 071-226 2636 (evenings).

YOUNG INDEPENDENT Italian spastic man in Florence. Working full time. Seeks English person for companion/light household duties. Expenses and weekly allowance paid. Gab-

riella Bertini, Via Incontri 2, 50139, Firenze, Italy, tel: 010-3955 412743.

WHEELCHAIR-BOUND gentleman needs a good job. Has done voluntary work as a therapeutic arts teacher's assistant for Manchester Disability Groups, and for the Council's social services dept, assisting people to live in the community. I have 'O' Levels and 'A' Level Art. Tel: Roy Thompson 061-860 5791.

The Royal National Institute for the Deaf

TRAINEE SOCIAL WORKERS FOR WORK WITH DEAF PEOPLE

The RNID, with funding from the European Social Fund, is looking for 40 enthusiastic individuals, who have been unemployed for around a year, to join a comprehensive new scheme to train as social workers specifically for deaf and hard of hearing people.

The ability to learn and the motivation to succeed will be more essential to the successful applicant than relevant qualifications and experience.

Students will be studying for a two year Diploma in Social Work (DipSW) at three key polytechnics around the country - Bristol, Staffordshire, and Manchester, having had a 20 week introductory course in Deaf Studies.

For more information there is an OPEN INFORMATION DAY at Bristol Polytechnic, Coldharbour Lane, Frenchay, on 15th February from 10am - 3 pm. Alternatively contact the Principal Regional Officer at the following RNID office: Jim Edwards, North Parade House, North Parade, Bath BA2 4AL.

The RNID is working towards equal opportunities and welcome applications from deaf or disabled people, or those from any other minority group.

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY FOR PEOPLE WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

Campaigns Co-ordinator

£15,882 (inc ILW) + Lease Car

The Spastics Society is going through an exciting period of change and growth. As part of this we are enhancing our campaigning and advocacy role and are now looking for a dynamic and imaginative person to support our local campaigns initiatives.

Working in our innovative Campaigns and Parliamentary Department, you will be responsible for developing our campaigning network and supporting local initiatives. You will have experience of campaigning or community development work. You will possess the ability to communicate effectively and be able to motivate a wide variety of people. There will also be the opportunity to contribute to our national campaigning work where appropriate.

You will be educated to degree standard or be able to show other relevant experience. A keen interest in current legislation, parliament and local government would be an advantage.

Based in London the post will involve travel in England and Wales.

For an application form and further details contact the Campaigns Dept, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ or ring on 071-636 5020 Ext 231. Closing date February 22nd 1991.

We very much welcome applications from people with disabilities

WORKING TOWARDS EQUALITY

Bloomsbury and Islington Health Authority ASSISTANT CO-ORDINATOR/SECRETARY and SECRETARY at the Medical Rehabilitation Centre

This Centre works with people with various physical disabilities.

A small team of staff provide intensive therapy and care to help people readjust and realise their full potential at home in the community. The Centre is based at the Royal London Homoeopathic Hospital near Russell Square.

If you would like to work as part of this team and help develop the service further, you may be interested in one of the two posts on offer. The Assistant Co-ordinator/Secretary fulfils a key role co-ordinating patient admissions and care, carrying out the day to day running of the Centre and providing secretarial support to the part-time Medical Consultant. The Secretary post provides essential back up to all the therapy staff and acts as Receptionist to the Centre.

Approximately 50/60 patients attend for regular treatment and it is part of the job to try and know everyone's needs individually.

Hours are 9 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday.

Salary: Assistant Co-ordinator/Secretary £10,405-£12,291.

Secretary £9,142-£10,405 p.a. inc. L.W. depending on previous experience.

For an informal discussion please contact: Cath Cahn on 071-380 0717 ext. 2215.

For a job description and application form contact:

Reception, Personnel Department, Local and Community Services Department, National Temperance Hospital, 110 Hampstead Road, London, NW1. Tel: 071-387 9300 ext. 5533.

Applications would be especially welcomed from people with physical disabilities.

Ref: 5119202. Closing date: 14th February, 1991.

Education & Leisure WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL YOUTH SERVICE/COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP YOUTH WORKERS

JNC rates of pay: A-C £8.40 - £6.40 (incl. L.W.)

Westminster City Council Youth Service are seeking applications from experienced and enthusiastic part-time Youth Workers, to work in a variety of settings in the Marylebone area.

We are hoping to appoint workers who can offer skills in the following curriculum areas:

Social Education programmes and activities, art and craft workshops, performing arts, computer skills, steel pan and dance and various sports including weight training, aerobics, women's self defence, trampoline, badminton and archery.

Vacancies exist both at this Centre and at other agencies including a PHAB Club, Adventure Playground and Hospital.

Please quote reference ED260.

Closing date: 20 February 1991.

Please contact Tracey Trimmer, Marylebone Resource Centre, North Wharf Road, London W2 1LF. Tel: 071-723 2522.

SERVICES

FREELANCE ARCHITECT available to design or convert accommodation for disabled people. Tel: Mark (0273) 732242.

Disabled Trainer offers Disability Awareness Training. Experience with Social Services, Education, Voluntary organisations and giving Open University-Disability Seminars. Based in West Midlands. Contact Laura Cole - Telephone: 0886 21748

Disability Now is not responsible for claims made in the advertisements it prints and all readers are advised to check claims with the advertisers before relying on them.



For people with disabilities and caring, understanding able bodied persons
Ladies should not be shy of applying!

All enquiries to: **HANDIDATE**
The Wellington Centre
52 Chevalier Street
Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2PB
Telephone: (0473) 226950

GREATER LONDON ASSOCIATION FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

GLAD requires a disabled person to be

ADVOCACY CO-ORDINATOR

For a 2 year self advocacy project working with young disabled people across London. The post-holder will be responsible for setting up and facilitating self-advocacy groups, consultation services and developing training materials.

Salary: NJC Scale SO1
£15,498-£16,518 (inc. London Weighting).

Closing Date: 22nd February 1991.

Further details and application form from GLAD, 336 Brixton Road, London SW9 7AA.

Tel./minicom 071-274 0107.

GLAD is an equal opportunities employer.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING RESOURCE UNIT

BLACK YOUTH RIGHTS WORKER

To do campaigning, research and advice work on issues affecting young people in training and unemployment. Experience more important than formal qualifications. Salary: APT&C Scale 6 point 29.

Details from Sarah (021) 236 8620 or write to YETRU, 7 Frederick St, Birmingham, B1 3HE. Closing date: 15th February 1991.

Funded by the Barrow and Geraldine S. Cadbury Trust. Post exempt under Section 5(2)(d) of the Race Relations Act 1976.

YETRU is striving to be an equal opportunity employer.

BLOOMSBURY AND ISLINGTON HEALTH AUTHORITY (NORTHSIDE) COMMUNITY & PRIORITY SERVICES UNIT

PART TIME AUDIO TYPIST

Grade: 3 Salary: £8,062-£9,142 inc. pro rata.

Grade: 4 Salary: £10,405- £12,291 inc. pro rata.

Hours: 4 days per week.

We are looking for an accurate typist to work in a busy friendly health centre, to support the Manager and health professionals in the Locality. You must be able, or willing to be trained to use a Word Processor, have a good telephone manner and a knowledge of office procedures. Your duties will include audio and copy typing, photocopying, filing and keeping a message book and diary for the Locality Manager. We can look at combinations of hours to suit you. The only limits are the post-holder will need to work on 4 days a week and between 8.30 am and 5.00 pm.

Application form and job description available from the Personnel Department, Insurance House, Insurance Street, London WC1X 0JB. Telephone 071-278 2323 ext. 236 quoting reference number CPS/W/4. We would welcome applications from People with Disabilities.

Closing Date: 11th February 1991.

An Employer Committed to Equal Opportunities.

TO ADVERTISE YOUR VACANCIES/COURSES

Please contact the Advertisement Manager, Don Neal, Kingslea Press Limited, 12 Dock Offices, Surrey Quays Road, London SE16 2XU. Telephone: 071-252 1362. Fax: 071-237 8019.

**UNDERSTANDING DISABILITIES
EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

There are two job opportunities available in this small expanding Trust which produces and promotes a multi-media disability awareness programme to British and overseas schools and educational establishments.

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

£15K - £16K p.a.

The person in this vital role will promote and expand the use of the UDET project in schools and educational establishments, and contribute towards the planning, production and marketing of other UDET materials designed for a wider range of users.

The ideal candidate will have experience of disability, management expertise, keyboard skills and a background in teaching, adult training, public relations or publishing. Strong public-speaking and inter-personal skills essential. Travel throughout the UK will be required on a regular basis.

SECRETARY

Up to £10K p.a.

We are seeking an experienced secretary to support our small busy and friendly team.

The ideal candidate will have personal experience or knowledge of disability, first class typing and word processing skills with shorthand and/or audio. GCSE/O'Level English essential.

Duties will include reception of visitors, office administration and acting as an ambassador for the Trust in telephone work.

Both posts are for 2 years in the first instance.

Please write for an application form to: Angela Burns, Administration Manager, UDET, Weydon School, Weydon Lane, Farnham, Surrey GU9 8UG. Tel: (0252) 733167.

Closing date for applications 15.2.91. Interviews are likely to be held during the week beginning 25.2.91.

Applications are particularly welcomed from people with disability. Parking and wheelchair access.

LIVING OPTIONS IN REDBRIDGE

A real chance to promote Consumer participation for people with Physical Disabilities

DEVELOPMENT WORKER

up to £17,475

A Development Worker is needed to promote the needs of the 'Living Options in Practice' Project in Redbridge, which is supported by the Kings Fund and Prince of Wales Advisory Group.

The Project seeks to develop with consumers, services aimed at maintaining disabled people's independence by offering secure homebased services.

This is an exciting opportunity for a creative, innovative person to work with disabled people in promoting their involvement in Service Planning, supported by a Multi-Disciplinary, Inter-Agency Team.

Essential pre-requisites are enthusiasm, a flexible approach, an understanding of disability issues and an ability to work with a wide range of people and agencies.

Two Year, fixed-term contract with the Redbridge Association for Handicapped People.

Scale SO2 up to £17,475 inclusive of London Weighting.

Closing date: 22 February 1991. Interviews: 15 March 1991.

For informal discussion please contact: Mrs Edna Smith, Principal of Redbridge Association for Handicapped People. Telephone: 081 514 2703.

Application forms and job descriptions are available from Mrs Lynda Salvatore, Joint Planning Officer, West Wing, King George Hospital, Newbury Park, Ilford, Essex IG2 7SJ. Tel: 081 518 2299.

Applications from disabled people are welcome.

Able to Relate

A one day conference on relationships and the art of loving run by and for people with disabilities

Thursday 14 February 1991

St Valentine's Day

Book now!

Space is limited

For full details telephone

Oxford (0865) 252067 or 252066

Oxford City Council



ACTION ON DISABILITY

CONSULTANCY MANAGER DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

At OUTSET we are committed to making the 1990's a time for increased employment opportunities for people with disabilities. We will continue to deliver and develop our quality training, enterprise and consultancy services as part of the strategic growth of our organisation.

CONSULTANCY MANAGER - we now require an experienced Manager to take responsibility for the day to day operation and development of our established and respected national Consultancy Service. This will involve the management of skilled staff and their work; client negotiations and maintaining the quality of our service. The individual appointed will need excellent communication and presentation skills; organisational ability; wide experience of the voluntary sector; sensitivity to, and awareness of issues concerning disability within the voluntary, statutory and commercial sectors.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGER - will play a key role in developing OUTSET's training and employment Centres and services, through development teams comprised of staff across the organisation. The post offers opportunities for the individual to be involved in strategic planning and policy development. The individual appointed will have had experience of managing staff and their work within a growing voluntary sector organisation; have good interpersonal skills and an out going, forward looking view of organisational growth.

All candidates should have an awareness and sensitivity to issues concerning people with disabilities. We consider personal experience of disability a positive advantage for applicants.

Both posts will be paid on Local Authority Scale PO2 (including OLW).

Salary range: £18,252 - £19,722.

For information and an application form contact Amanda Jones: OUTSET, Drake House, 18 Creekside, London SE8 3DZ. Tel: 081-692 7141. Closing date for applications: 13 February 1991.

OUTSET is an Equal Opportunities employer and actively encourages applications from people with disabilities. All OUTSET's premises are wheelchair accessible.

An opportunity to play a key role in the development of this growing national charity. To facilitate our expansion, we have created two exciting new posts within our Development and Planning Division:

Birmingham City Council Commercial Services Department

COPY TYPIST

Job Share £8388-£8796 pro rata

Required in the Support Services Division, for 18½ hours per week, to join a small typing group providing a full copy typing service to the Department. Your duties will also include arranging appointments, maintenance of filing and record systems, providing cover on reception, recording and distribution of post.

The introduction of word processors is planned for this group and full training can be provided. Working arrangements include Wednesday afternoons, Thursday and Friday of each week.

Preferably you should be qualified to RSA Stage II, typing and Shorthand 80 w.p.m. would be an advantage.

Informal enquiries to Pat Jay, Personal Assistant, 021-622 3452, ext 225.

Application forms (returnable by 12 February 1991) and job descriptions available from Support Services Division, Commercial Services Department, Manor House, 40 Moat Lane, Birmingham B5 5BD or by telephoning 021-622 3452 extension 260. Please quote ref CSS001.

The City Council welcomes applications from all sections of the community irrespective of race, colour, gender, sexuality or disability. Job Sharers welcome, no partner necessary.

LAMBETH



Lambeth ACCORD together with Lambeth Social Services seeks an
EMPLOYMENT CO-ORDINATOR

To develop employment opportunities
with disabled people
Salary: (PO2) £18,705 - £20,175 p.a. inc.
35 hours per week

ACCORD is set up to promote the integration of disabled people into employment and the local community. Through WORKLINK, its vocational assessment and training resource, it assists individuals into employment.

The Employment Co-ordinator will be responsible for working with employers and their networks, to develop equal opportunity good practice and to promote employment opportunities for disabled people.

This will involve liaising with specialist employment agencies and services and organising conferences/seminars. It will require an understanding of recruitment/employment needs and practices and services related to disabled people. The postholder will also require an ability to communicate effectively and experience of working with disabled people or personal experience of disability. A recognition of issues facing black people with disabilities will be important.

The postholder employed by Lambeth Social Services, will be seconded to ACCORD, and will work closely with WORKLINK staff, building on existing experience of work with employers.

In keeping with ACCORD and the Council's Equal Opportunities policy applications are encouraged from people irrespective of gender, race and ethnic origin and from lesbians and gay men. We particularly invite applications from disabled people. Application forms etc. can be made available in large print, tape and braille. Working premises are fully accessible to wheelchair users.

For further information and application form contact:

Julie Lucas, Lambeth ACCORD
336 Brixton Road, London SW9 7AA
Tel: (Voice) 071-274 2299
(Minicom) 071-978 8765

Closing date: Monday 25th February 1991.

JOBS Update!

Every week the Council produces a 'Jobs Update' bulletin which includes all new vacancies in various Departments throughout the City.

You can find 'Jobs Update' at any of the Job Centres in the City of Manchester, at local libraries, at your local Community Centre and at the Information Centre in Manchester Town Hall Extension, or telephone 061-234 7538 (24 hour answering machine).

Apply by post to: Update, Room 300, Cumberland House, Crown Square, Manchester M60 3BB. Disabled people and community and other groups will be added to the mailing until further notice. Others must renew every four weeks.

Manchester City Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer and we positively welcome applications from women and men regardless of their racial, ethnic or national origin, disability, age up to 65, sexuality, or responsibilities for dependants.

MANCHESTER
City Council
Defending Jobs - Improving Services

UNDER-SECRETARY (HOUSING AND PUBLIC WORKS)

£46,020 - £50,430 inclusive

The present Under-Secretary, Mike Irvine, has been appointed Director of Housing at Leicester.

The Under-Secretary is the 'Chief Officer' heading the work of the Association on housing (including housing benefit and finance) competitive tendering, direct service organisations, purchasing and a wide range of technical service issues. Candidates should have considerable experience in public sector housing policy and/or direct service provision. They would probably, though not necessarily, be Chief Officers or deputies in direct

service works or housing departments. A high level of communication and negotiating skills is required.

The post is challenging and demanding, presenting a unique opportunity to contribute to the development of national policies.

Women, black and ethnic minority people and those with disabilities are under-represented at this level and we welcome applicants from these groups. People with registered disabilities, who meet the job specification, will be guaranteed an interview. The building is accessible to people with disabilities.

For further details, please write or phone for an application form to The Secretary, AMA, 35 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BJ. Telephone 071 222 8100. Closing date for the post is 28th February, 1991.



Association of Metropolitan Authorities

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1. Access 4. Exist
7. Prudence 8. Leo 9. Attire
12. Olive 13. Energised
18. Idea 19. Kiwis 20. Tattered
21. Older Brother
DOWN: 1. Alpha 2. Court
3. Sense 4. Eyesore 5. Inlaid
6. Trove 10. Ten 11. Register
13. Eskimo 14. Edward 15. Sister
16. Digest 17. Wander

COMMERCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

MARKETS OFFICER

Up to £13,614 + Approx. £3,900 (Enhanced pay, Contractual Overtime and Shift Allowance)

38.5 hour working week

You will be responsible for all aspects associated with the day to day control of traders/tenants' activities in Birmingham City Council's Retail Markets, involving the supervision of their methods of trading, cleanliness, displays, authorised lines and allocation of stalls to traders.

Specific responsibilities will include supervising Assistant Markets Officers; enforcement of market rules and regulations; investigating consumer and tenant/trader complaints; inspecting street trading sites; administering first aid and acting as Relief Wholesale Markets Officer and Mobile Markets Officer.

Ref. CSM601

ASSISTANT MARKETS OFFICERS

(3 JOBS)

Up to £9,600 + Approx £2,400 (Enhanced Pay and Shift Allowance)

36.5 hour working week

You will be responsible for providing general assistance to Market Officers, with regard to all aspects associated with the effective control of tenants/traders' activities in Birmingham City Council's Retail and Wholesale Markets.

Specific responsibility will include providing cover for Retail and Wholesale Markets Officers; traffic and pedestrian control; collection of rents, rates, fees and tolls; supervision of tenants/traders' activities; investigating and reporting breaches of Markets rules and regulations; general liaison with members of the public and administering first aid as required.

For these jobs you should possess good written and verbal communication and numeracy skills, be capable of undertaking duties involving extensive periods outdoors in adverse weather conditions, have the ability to deal constructively and effectively with a diverse range of people and be willing to help develop the services provided by this Department to Market tenants/traders and the general public. You must be able to comply with regular early morning, late evenings, Saturdays and Bank Holiday working. In addition, Markets Officer candidates will be required to hold a full clean driving licence.

Ref. CSM301

Informal enquiries regarding the duties of these jobs to Phil Gibson, Markets Manager or Steve Morris, Principal Markets Officer on the telephone number given below.

Application forms and further details for these jobs are available from Lynda Richards and Christine Baxter on 021 622 3542 - Birmingham City Council Commercial Services Department, Manor House, 40 Moat Lane, Birmingham B5 5BD. Completed application forms to be returned by no later than Friday 15th February 1991. Please quote appropriate reference number.

Birmingham City Council Commercial Services Department positively welcome applications from People with Disabilities.



Birmingham City Council
The City Council welcomes applications from all sections of the community, irrespective of race, colour, gender, sexuality or disability. Job Sharers welcome, no partner necessary

Special needs kids get school victories

Legal victories by two families means children with special needs may now stand a better chance of getting the schools and educational services they need.

A Jewish orthodox Down's Syndrome boy has won a decision from the Department of Education and Science saying, for the first time, that religion can be a special educational need.

And a Dorset boy with dyslexia has won a court case requiring his local education authority to consider everything on his statement of special needs.

Moishe Goldblatt, 9, who has Down's Syndrome, is now going to Kisharon Day School in Golders Green, London, the only special needs orthodox Jewish school in the country.

His parents had a five-year fight after their local authority, Barnet, said the child's religion was irrelevant in choosing a school. Barnet was backed by the Department of Education and Science.

In June 1989 the High Court ordered the DES to reconsider its decision. Eighteen months later the department issued the decision that religion can be a special educational need.

The family argued that Moishe Goldblatt would have a triple disability if he did not go to

Kisharon. Apart from the Down's Syndrome, he would be disabled at school because he could not join in fully with the life there, and disabled at home because he would not have had appropriate instruction at school to support him in his home life.

"It's a major breakthrough for children from other religious backgrounds - Catholic, Muslim, whatever," said the family's solicitor, Jack Rabinowicz.

But the Department of Education and Science said: "This statement does not have a bearing on any other cases."

The Dorset family has won appropriate educational support for their son, who has dyslexia and learning difficulties.

Dorset county council said he had numeracy and literacy difficulties in his statement, but only made provision for the literacy difficulties. It argued in court that his numeracy difficulties were not serious enough to need special support.

But Mr Justice Nolan ruled that if a need was serious enough to be included in the statement, it had to be met.

"Now education authorities will be obliged to list other difficulties and needs," said Robert Love, the family's solicitor.



Over the top. Jean Fellows of Walsall Council's community sports team abseils off Walsall's 85 feet high civic centre to mark the start of the Sports Council's Year of Sport. The council is expanding its sports provision for disabled people during the year.

Doctor warns on asthma deaths

Many of Britain's two million people with asthma are sacrificing long-term treatment of the condition for short-term relief and more deaths have resulted, said a doctor last month.

Dr Martyn Partridge of Whipps Cross Hospital in London said that too many people are using bronchodilators, which ease the immediate symptoms of an attack.

Instead they should be taking steroids which are more benefi-

cial in the long-term because they prevent attacks.

He said that symptom-relieving drugs could worsen the condition if too many of them were taken, and that the sharp increase in deaths from asthma over the last ten years was mainly because patients were missing out on the best treatments.

"Patients should have higher expectations of how they can be treated," he said.

He was speaking at the launch

of the Asthma Action campaign, run by the Asthma Research Council.

Action Asthma has started an information service, after completing a survey which showed that one in ten people with asthma have sought no medical help for the condition in the past year.

To enrol in the information service, write to Action Asthma leaflet offer, PO Box 230, Bradford, BD7 1HQ.

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